

Jennifer Rolph

Expert Witness
Occupational Therapist

Northampton



Professional Background

Jennifer Rolph is a highly experienced Occupational Therapist with a sustained clinical focus on stroke, acquired brain injury, spinal cord injury, and complex neurological presentations. Her practice has centred on acute and subacute neurorehabilitation within NHS settings, where she has worked extensively with patients presenting with cognitive impairment, spasticity, and postural and seating needs.

Her expertise includes neurological assessment, formulation of individualised rehabilitation plans, discharge planning, and intervention for physical, cognitive, and emotional needs following stroke or neurological injury. She is proficient in the use of a broad range of outcome measures, including ACE-III, Rivermead Behavioural Memory Test, 6CIT, OCS, Modified Rankin Scale, and Barthel Index. Her clinical decisions are guided by evidence-based practice, and she applies recognised frameworks including the Bobath approach and formal training in cognition, perception, and upper limb spasticity management.

Jennifer has led multidisciplinary therapy teams and has been responsible for the supervision and professional development of junior colleagues, assistants, apprentices, and students. Her clinical work consistently involves liaison with medical, therapy, nursing, and community services, ensuring continuity of care across the patient pathway. She has also contributed to service improvement initiatives, clinical audit, and quality governance.

Jennifer's clinical background makes her particularly well-suited to provide expert opinion on functional outcomes, rehabilitation needs, care planning, and equipment provision in cases involving complex neurological injury. Her in-depth understanding of post-stroke and acquired brain injury recovery enables her to comment on both immediate and longer-term needs, including realistic goal-setting, discharge pathways, and expected rehabilitation trajectories. She is available for instructions on personal injury and clinical negligence matters, and we aim to maintain a balanced instruction ratio across Claimant and Defendant work.

Jennifer is fully trained in the Civil Procedure Rules, including relevant revisions as they arise. She actively maintains her continuing professional development via a range of training opportunities, ensuring she stays abreast of the latest advancements in her field.

Specialisms

- Acquired brain injury
- Spinal cord injury
- Spasticity management
- Complex neurological disorders
- Cognitive assessment and rehabilitation
- Acute and subacute stroke rehabilitation
- Discharge planning and community reintegration
- Bobath-based neurorehabilitation approaches
- Postural seating and positioning
- Mental Capacity Assessment
- Equipment assessment and provision

Age group

- Adults



Career history

- Team Lead Occupational Therapist July 2023 - present
Stroke, Neuro and Medical Team, Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
 - Leads the acute therapy service for stroke, neuro, and spinal cord injury patients across acute and subacute stages. Manages complex cases, delivers personalised rehabilitation plans, and coordinates integrated care with the multidisciplinary team. Oversees supervision and teaching of junior staff and supports discharge planning and equipment provision in line with evidence-based practice.
- Occupational Therapist – Acute Stroke June 2017 – July 2023
Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
 - Specialised in neurological assessment and rehabilitation following acute stroke, with a focus on functional independence. Managed complex equipment provision and conducted cognitive and capacity assessments. Contributed to MDT planning, supervised junior staff, supported service audits, and delivered both individual and group therapy sessions.
- Rotational Occupational Therapist June 2016 – June 2017
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust
 - Completed rotations in acute medicine, rehabilitation, stroke, and elderly care. Assessed function and cognition, provided equipment, and led personal care and kitchen assessments. Supported discharge planning, conducted access visits, participated in MDT meetings, and delegated to therapy assistants while maintaining clinical records.
- Rotational Occupational Therapist September 2015 – June 2016
Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
 - Worked in orthopaedics and surgical wards, primarily with trauma and elective surgery patients, including those with hip fractures. Responsibilities included conducting initial interviews, ADL and mobility assessments, equipment provision, home and access visits, and discharge planning. Attended board rounds and family MDT meetings, ensuring cohesive communication across the care team.

Qualifications

- Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Occupational Therapy
University of Northampton — June 2015

Professional Memberships

- HCPC

