

Michaela McCann

Expert Witness
Occupational Therapist

Merseyside & Chester



Professional Background

Michaela McCann is an accomplished Occupational Therapist with thirteen years of wide-ranging clinical experience in hospital, community, military and international healthcare settings. She has managed the assessment and rehabilitation of patients with some of the most complex and challenging conditions seen in practice. Her expertise spans spinal cord injury, traumatic and elective amputations, multiple and complex fractures, peripheral nerve injury, functional neurological disorders, traumatic and acquired brain injury, stroke, and complex regional pain syndrome. She also has significant experience in addressing the psychological and psychiatric consequences of trauma, including post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and depression.

Michaela began her career in a specialist spinal treatment centre, gaining early and in-depth experience in the rehabilitation of individuals with acute and chronic spinal injuries. She went on to develop her expertise in complex trauma as Senior Occupational Therapist at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court, where she worked with military personnel presenting with multiple limb loss, catastrophic orthopaedic injury, secondary brain injury and complex psychological presentations. In this role, she also provided specialist training in spinal injury and developed detailed functional assessments and progress reports for patients undergoing intensive rehabilitation.

Her career has included senior rotational roles across intensive care, renal services and neurological rehabilitation, providing her with a broad understanding of acute medicine and complex discharge planning. She has also delivered community rehabilitation, reablement and home assessment services, with a focus on maximising independence, safety and quality of life while minimising long-term care requirements. She has led technology-enabled care pilots, designed referral pathways, trained teams in equipment prescription, and developed services integrating health and social care provision.

Internationally, Michaela has worked in New Zealand, conducting functional assessments, prescribing complex equipment and coordinating both short- and long-term rehabilitation programmes. She also held a leadership role in Gibraltar, managing inpatient therapy services with a caseload that included stroke rehabilitation, elderly care and palliative care. Across these roles she has consistently supervised and trained therapy teams, authored practice standards, and delivered specialist training on wheelchairs, posture and seating.

Michaela currently undertakes medico-legal work as an Expert Witness for Harrison Associates, preparing impartial, evidence-based reports. She is fully trained in the Civil Procedure Rules and maintains her authority in practice through leadership roles, clinical delivery and continuing professional development. is fully trained in the Civil Procedure Rules, including relevant revisions as they arise.

Specialisms

- Spinal Injury
- Amputations
- Brain Injury
- Orthopaedics
- Peripheral Nerve Injury
- Stroke
- Complex Regional Pain Syndrome
- Posture & Seating
- Mental Health

Age group

- 16 Years & Above



Career history

- Expert Witness 2022 - Present
Harrison Associates
- Locum Senior Occupational Therapist 2017 - Current
Various (including Headley Court Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre and Reablement and Home Assessment Teams within Health and Social Services)
 - Worked in various senior roles across complex trauma and reablement service settings. This involved leading the rehabilitation of patients with complex fractures, amputations, spinal injury, complex regional pain syndrome, functional neurological disorder, brain injuries, PTSD, anxiety and depression.
 - Inducted, trained and supervised a new team of therapists, wrote practice standards, delivered training on wheelchairs, posture and seating and served as spinal injury OT clinical lead.
 - Delivered community rehabilitation to maximise independence, quality of life and safety at home whilst minimising long-term care requirements.
 - Trained staff on equipment prescription, oversaw the set-up and delivery of a collaborative reablement service with a domiciliary care agency and led a technology-enabled care pilot.
 - Worked within a home assessment team, delivering occupational therapy intervention and led intervention on a joint health and social care pilot.
- Locum Occupational Therapy Lead (Inpatient Therapy) 2017
Gibraltar Health Authority
 - Managed an inpatient therapy team, including a clinical caseload of stroke rehabilitation, elderly care and palliative care.
- Locum Occupational Therapist (Reablement) 2016
Bromley Adult Services
 - Held responsibility for the set-up and development of physiotherapy and occupational services and implementation of a referral pathway and priority system.
- Occupational Therapist Assessor 2015 - 2016
Quality Rehabilitation Services (New Zealand)
 - Conducted individual assessments regarding equipment and care provision and led the assessment and provision of short and long-term community-based rehabilitation programmes.
- Senior Occupational Therapist 2011 - 2015
Various
 - Completed NHS and private healthcare contracts within neurological occupational therapy, working with clients with multiple sclerosis, stroke, spinal injury and brain injury and delivering training on spinal injury. This included producing detailed functional reports and providing regular progress update reports.



Career history

- Obtained broad experience within a senior rotational role, working across renal services, ITU and neurological specialities. This involved managing complex discharges, defining rehabilitation goals and creating treatment plans.
- Senior Occupational Therapist (Complex Trauma) 2012 - 2014
Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre
 - Managed the assessment and treatment of patients with spinal injuries, multiple limb loss, peripheral nerve injury and complex fractures. Secondary conditions frequently included brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder and a variety of mental health conditions.
- Occupational Therapist (Spinal Treatment) 2009 - 2011
Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust
 - Upon qualification, obtained two years of experience within a spinal treatment centre.

Qualifications

- BSc (Hons) Occupational Therapy

Professional Memberships

- HCPC
- BAOT