

Portia Bigger

Expert Witness

Nurse

Liability: Nursing - Continuing Healthcare, Complex Care, Discharge Planning & Community Care Packages



Professional Background

Portia Bigger is a Registered Nurse with over 12 years' clinical experience across acute hospital, ITU, community services, prison healthcare, home IV therapy and Continuing Healthcare settings. Her background gives her a broad understanding of patient care across both hospital and community environments, particularly where complex needs require safe discharge planning, coordinated care delivery and ongoing clinical oversight.

Portia has substantial experience in Continuing Healthcare (CHC), having worked as a Senior Practitioner / Interim CHC Specialist Practitioner, Band 6 Interim CHC Specialist Practitioner, and Independent CHC Specialist Practitioner. Her work includes complex discharge planning, CHC eligibility assessments, Decision Support Tools, Fast Track reviews, retrospective reviews, appeals, DST ratification and coordination with Social Services, ward teams and multidisciplinary professionals. Her practice includes managing and reviewing complex cases involving neurological conditions, mental health needs, frailty, physical disability, cognitive impairment, high-risk deterioration and end-of-life care. She has worked with individuals affected by dementia, autism, acquired brain injury, stroke, spinal cord injury, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease and other complex presentations.

Portia has direct experience coordinating and reviewing comprehensive care plans and complex care packages, including CHC-funded care, end-of-life care, community-based support, therapy input, specialist nursing input, high-risk mobility, nutritional support and home-based clinical care. Her CHC role requires assessment of whether care arrangements are safe, appropriate, proportionate and aligned with the assessed need.

Her clinical background includes home-based intravenous therapy, including IV antibiotics, IVIG and nutritional therapy for chronically and critically ill patients. She has trained patients and carers in the administration of parenteral nutrition and the use of infusion devices, supporting safe delivery of treatment in the home environment.

Portia's acute and high-dependency nursing experience includes work as a Locum ITU Nurse, delivering intensive-care-level nursing, patient assessment, care planning and close monitoring. She has also worked as a Clinical Advisor, providing telephone triage, risk assessments and clinical advice for a wide range of health conditions.

In her senior CHC roles, Portia leads complex case management, MDT coordination and service delivery. She acts as a central point of contact for referrals, oversees progression of complex cases, and ensures assessments, MDTs and reviews are completed to required standards and timescales.

Portia produces clinical reports, case analyses and evidence-based assessments as part of her CHC practice. This includes Decision Support Tools, Fast Track rationales, risk assessments, safeguarding reports and complex case summaries requiring analysis and interpretation of clinical evidence. She maintains her professional knowledge through ongoing CPD, including updates relating to the National Framework, safeguarding, governance standards, DoLS, Mental Capacity Assessments and risk management. Portia is registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

Portia is fully trained in the Civil Procedure Rules, including relevant revisions as they arise.



Specialisms

- Continuing Healthcare (CHC) eligibility assessment and National Framework application
- Decision Support Tools (DSTs), Fast Track assessments and retrospective CHC reviews
- Complex discharge planning and transition from hospital to community care
- Review and coordination of complex care packages and CHC-funded care
- Nursing care of individuals with neurological injury, cognitive impairment and high-dependency needs
- Risk assessment, safeguarding and clinical evidence analysis within CHC and community settings
- Multidisciplinary team coordination and complex case review
- Community-based care planning for frailty, end-of-life care and deteriorating patients
- Review of proportionality and appropriateness of care provision against assessed need
- Home IV therapy, parenteral nutrition and infusion-device support in community settings
- Documentation review, case analysis and clinical report preparation
- Mental Capacity Act (MCA), DoLS and safeguarding considerations within complex care planning
- Clinical triage, risk assessment and telephone-based clinical advice
- Benchmarking care provision against National Framework guidance, governance standards and clinical policy

Career history

- Senior Practitioner Interim CHC Specialist Practitioner June 2021 – Present
D2A and Fast Track, NHS
 - In this role, Portia supports patients, their carers and representatives by providing clear guidance on Continuing Healthcare (CHC) policy and procedures. She leads complex discharge planning, working closely with ward staff and multidisciplinary teams across hospital sites to support timely discharge. She organises placements for individuals requiring complex or end-of-life care, facilitating safe transitions between hospital and community settings. Her duties include investigating eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare, particularly in disputed or complex cases. As Duty Clinician, she maintains accurate data records and commissions safe, sustainable care packages tailored to assessed needs.
- Band 6 Interim CHC Specialist Practitioner December 2020 – June 2021
NHS
 - During this period, Portia was responsible for conducting assessments for Continuing Healthcare funding, using Microsoft Teams and telephone consultations to support accessibility. She worked collaboratively with Social Services to facilitate assessments for vulnerable adults. Her responsibilities included completing Personalised Care documents, prescriptions, Checklists, FNC Reviews and Fast Track Reviews. Her caseload often involved complex cases requiring safety checks and completion of Decision Support Tools within mandated 7-day and 28-day timelines.





Career history

- Bank Nurse, Transcare - B Braun (Home IV Therapy) January 2020 – December 2022
 - As a Bank Nurse, Portia provided home-based intravenous antibiotics, IVIGs and nutritional therapy for chronically and critically ill patients. She trained patients and carers in the administration of parenteral nutrition and the use of infusion devices, supporting independence with ongoing treatment and care.
- Nurse Adviser, IQVIA March 2020 – December 2020
 - In this role, Portia adhered to the NMC Code, ABPI Guidelines, GDPR and relevant confidentiality requirements. She implemented programme Standard Operating Procedures, maintained accurate patient records and reported adverse events as required.
 - Her responsibilities also included supporting programme KPIs, facilitating sponsor meetings and responding to enquiries from the NHS and HSE.
- Independent CHC Specialist Practitioner February 2019 – March 2020
Various CCGs
- CHC Specialist Practitioner February 2018 – February 2019
Wiltshire CCG
- Clinical Advisor January 2017 – December 2017
Derbyshire Health United
- Practice Nurse January 2016 – January 2017
Whatton Prison
- Registered Nurse April 2014 – January 2016
Locum ITU Nurse
- Registered Nurse July 2012 – April 2014
Chesterfield Royal Hospital & Oxford University Hospital Trust

Qualification

BSc Nursing (Adult), Oxford Brookes University — September 2009 – July 2012

Professional Memberships

- NMC registered