

Eleanor Crowther

Expert Witness
Mental Health Nurse

Mental healthcare, Clinical Governance & Breach of Duty



Professional Background

Eleanor Crowther is a Registered Mental Health Nurse with over 12 years' post-registration experience, specialising in acute inpatient mental health care. She has progressed through senior clinical and operational roles including Ward Manager, Lead Nurse and Clinical Service Manager and is currently undertaking the Trainee Approved Clinician (MPARC) pathway. Her clinical experience encompasses the assessment and management of patients presenting with acute psychosis, severe mood disorders, personality disorders, complex trauma, self-harm, suicidal crises and behavioural disturbance.

Eleanor has substantial experience in clinical governance, patient safety and the investigation of adverse clinical events. She has led or contributed to investigations involving suicide attempts, self-harm, violence and aggression, absconding, medication errors, safeguarding concerns, restrictive interventions, observation failures and deterioration in mental state. Her investigative practice includes review of clinical records, witness statements, care plans, risk assessments and multidisciplinary documentation, applying Root Cause Analysis, human factors principles and systems-based review methodologies to establish events and identify contributory factors.

In considering breach of duty, Eleanor assesses the care provided against that expected of a reasonably competent mental health practitioner in a comparable role at the relevant time. She considers the NMC Code, NICE guidance, Mental Health Act, Mental Capacity Act, applicable local policies and accepted standards of mental health nursing practice. Her analysis considers assessment and risk formulation, care planning, observations and monitoring, clinical decision-making, documentation, communication and escalation, based upon the information reasonably available to practitioners at the time and without applying hindsight.

Her experience includes retrospective analysis of cases involving escalating suicide and self-harm risk, including whether observation levels, risk assessments and care plans were appropriately reviewed following changes in presentation. She has identified departures from expected standards where increased risk was not adequately reassessed, documented, communicated or escalated.

Eleanor is experienced in detailed analysis of nursing and multidisciplinary records, risk assessments, care plans, observation charts, medication records, Mental Health Act documentation and incident reports. She reconstructs clinical timelines from contemporaneous evidence to establish what information was available, identify omissions or delays and evaluate whether the actions taken were reasonable in the circumstances. Her approach distinguishes between individual departures from professional standards and wider systemic or organisational failings, including issues relating to staffing, training, supervision, communication, policy and escalation pathways. Eleanor is fully trained in the Civil Procedure Rules, including relevant revisions as they arise.



Specialisms

- Acute inpatient mental health nursing
- Suicide and self-harm risk assessment and management
- Clinical observations
- Deterioration, escalation and safety planning
- Psychosis, severe mood disorders and behavioural disturbance
- Risk formulation, care planning and clinical decision making
- Mental Health Act and Mental Capacity Act practice
- Safeguarding and protection of vulnerable adults
- Restrictive practice and least restrictive care
- Medication management
- Prescribing
- Clinical incident and serious adverse event investigation
- Root Cause Analysis and human factors reviews
- Clinical record analysis and timeline reconstruction
- Documentation, communication and handover failure investigations
- Individual clinical error investigations
- Systemic or organisational failing investigations
- Clinical governance, patient safety and quality assurance
- Discharge planning
- Transition of care

Career history

- Clinical Services Manager 2023 - Present
Elysium Healthcare
 - Providing senior operational and clinical leadership within specialist inpatient mental health services
 - Leading clinical governance and quality improvement programmes
 - Ensuring compliance with regulatory and organisational standards
 - Managing multidisciplinary teams and developing leadership capability
 - Oversight of incident management, investigations and organisational learning
 - Workforce planning, supervision and appraisal
 - Managing service performance and operational delivery
 - Supporting complex clinical decision making and risk management
 - Delivering service development and improvement initiatives
 - Collaboration with external stakeholders, commissioners and partner organisations
- Lead Nurse 2022 - 2023
Elysium Healthcare
 - Provided senior nursing leadership across inpatient mental health services
 - Supported ward managers and senior clinicians
 - Promoted evidence-based and person-centred practice
 - Supported clinical governance and service transformation initiatives
 - Lead quality improvement projects
 - Coached and mentored clinical leaders



Career history

- Ward Manager 2018 - 2022
Devon Partnership NHS Trust
 - Managed acute inpatient mental health wards delivering care to individuals with complex mental health needs
 - Clinical and operational management
 - Workforce leadership and development
 - Budget management
 - Governance and quality assurance
 - Risk management and incident review
 - Regulatory compliance
 - Performance monitoring and improvement
 - Managed service delivery throughout Covid-19 pandemic

- Clinical Team Leader 2015 - 2018
Devon Partnership NHS Trust
 - Provided shift coordination and clinical leadership within acute mental health services
 - Clinical risk management
 - Coordinating patient care
 - Team leadership and supervision
 - Complex clinical decision making
 - Supported service development initiatives

- Staff Nurse 2013 - 2015
Devon Partnership NHS Trust
 - Delivered therapeutic nursing care within inpatient mental health settings
 - Mental health assessments
 - Risk assessment and management
 - Care planning
 - Medication management
 - Multidisciplinary working
 - Nurse in charge responsibilities

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Qualifications

- BSc. Mental Health Nursing - University of West London, 2013
- Independent and/or Supplementary Prescribing - University of the West of England, 2025
- Postgraduate Diploma in Mental Health Law - University of Exeter, 2026

Professional Memberships

- Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Registered
- V300 - Nurse Independent/Supplementary Prescriber