



The Old Smithy, 1 North Road, Stokesley, North Yorkshire, TS9 5DU

Tel: 01642 713720

Mobile: 0771 857 6160

Minnieke.vorster@ccms.org.uk

www.ccms.org.uk

Minnieke Vorster CV Curriculum Vitae

Qualifications:

B. Occupational Therapy (Hons), 2003 – University of Pretoria (South Africa)

Training:

Post graduate certificate in Stroke Care with Merit, 2015 – University of Leeds

Professional bodies:

I am registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), OT 42279.

I am a member of the British Association of Occupational Therapists and the College of Occupational Therapists' Specialist section for Neurology.

I am a member of the British Association of Brain Injury Case Managers (BABICM), membership number 1167.

Experience:

After graduation I started my Occupational Therapy career in South Africa working with children with cerebral palsy in the community and adults who required assessment for wheelchairs following injury and disability. This was a challenging role due to the lack of resources available. I gained valuable experience and was able to develop my ability to “think outside the box” and work in a creative way.

I moved to the United Kingdom in 2005 and worked in various settings as a locum Occupational Therapist. I gained valuable experience in this time as the work was varied and fast paced. I gained experience in the field of adaptations and equipment, spinal cord injury, stroke and elderly care.

In 2006 I took a permanent position as a Community Occupational Therapist working mostly with older people assessing and prescribing equipment, formulating short term care plans and facilitating safe discharges from hospital. This role was extremely rewarding and varied and I was able to develop my assessment skills, working in a pressured environment and working closely with other professionals. During this

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period, I worked with a variety of conditions including Parkinson's disease, spinal cord injuries, traumatic brain injury, amputees, complex orthopaedic trauma and stroke.

In 2011 I commenced a secondment to work in a NHS Rehabilitation Unit for orthopaedic, amputee and stroke patients. I was able to develop more specialist assessment skills with a special interest in the psychological impact of disability and cognitive assessment and rehabilitation.

In 2012 I was offered a more senior position as an Advanced Occupational Therapist at Harrogate Hospital. I worked predominantly in the field of acute stroke, acute neurology and neuro/stroke rehabilitation. During my time at Harrogate I was able to get involved in complex decision making, leading Multi-Disciplinary Meetings, attending Best Interest Meetings and assessing patients longer term needs.

In 2016 I joined CCMS as a Case Manager bringing my experience as an Occupational Therapist in providing initial assessments, planning and delivering rehabilitation packages and working within a multi-disciplinary team. I am able to use my skills as an Occupational Therapist in this role to ensure clients are assessed and treated in a holistic manner. I have a special interest in the complex cognitive, behavioural, psychological and physical problems that individuals present with following acquired brain injury and spinal cord injury.

Since joining CCMS I have managed a caseload of predominately adults with traumatic brain injuries and spinal cord injuries. I have gained significant experience in case management including completing initial needs assessments, providing costed reports and implementing multi-disciplinary rehabilitation packages to maximise an individual's potential. I have supported my clients to identify appropriate housing and support packages and I am actively involved in the recruitment and supervision of support staff.

In addition, I have experience in providing witness statements and liaising with professionals to support the litigation process.

I have expertise in moving and handling, adaptations, adaptive equipment including specialist seating and wheelchairs, and assessment/treatment of physical and cognitive deficits following injury. I have an excellent understanding of working with individuals with diminished capacity.

I am taking a lead role in CCMS supporting other team members with housing assessments and manual and handling assessments and training.

Personal statement

I am an enthusiastic and driven individual. I have an excellent understanding of the rehabilitation process and take pride in delivering a high-quality service to clients. I am able to take a holistic approach to rehabilitation to assess and identify difficulties a client might be experiencing following an injury. I have good communication skills and enjoy working in a multi-disciplinary team. I continue to develop as an Occupational Therapist and Case Manager by keeping up to date with research, attending seminars and training and peer supervision. I have completed training in understanding and assessing mental capacity, cognitive rehabilitation and setting up and delivering manual handling training for complex clients.