

MINNIEKE VORSTER

Expert Witness / Case Manager

📍 Yorkshire and Northeast

Snapshot

Minnieke is an Occupational Therapist and Case Manager, with over 20 years' experience working predominantly with adults who have sustained a spinal cord injury or brain injury. She is passionate about neuro-rehabilitation and supporting clients to reach their maximum potential after serious injury. Minnieke has a special interest in the effects of cognitive dysfunction following brain injury

Professional Qualifications

Post Graduate Certificate in Stroke with Merit
2015

B Occupational Therapy (Hons)
2003

Experience

After graduation in 2003, 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.



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Specialist Areas

- Adults
- Acquired Brain Injury
- Neurological Rehabilitation
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Client-centred goal setting
- MDT working
- Manual Handling of Clients with complex needs
- Care Expert

Memberships

- BABICM
- Health and Care Professions Council
- British Association of Occupational Therapist

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Experience (continued)

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 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 an 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 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, participating in Best Interest Meetings, and assessing patient's mental capacity to make decisions and longer-term needs. I implemented a cognitive rehabilitation programme, based on patient need. I have an excellent understanding of the physical, cognitive, and psychological difficulties following brain injury.

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 can 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 also provide case management to young adults with cerebral palsy and have experience in assisting them to transition from children to adult services.

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Experience (continued)

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

I have experience in providing evidence in court. 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.

Due to my vast experience as an Occupational therapist and case manager, I now prepare Occupational Therapy and Care expert witness reports for the Court. I have completed the Cardiff University Bond Solan Expert witness certificate, awaiting certification.