

Expert Profile

Sara Dickinson

Profession	Chartered Physiotherapist
Qualifications	Grad Dip Phys, MCSP
Specialisms	Trauma, Orthopaedics, Cauda Equina, Chronic Pain, Elderly Care & General Surgery
Registration	HPC PH36630

Introduction

I qualified as a Chartered Physiotherapist in 1986, having completed my studies at the Manchester School of Physiotherapy. I specialise in the fields of trauma, orthopaedics and elderly care.

Since 1999 I have worked at Ashted Hospital, a private hospital in Surrey treating a predominantly in-patient caseload. I also supervise physiotherapy staff and students on a regular basis.

For three years between 2003 and 2006 I was fully responsible for the provision of Manual Handling Training to all disciplines for two hospitals in the group and for seven years was responsible for the delivery of fire safety training to over three hundred staff. I represented the physiotherapy department on the Hospital Health and Safety Committee.

Current clinical responsibilities include day to day management of a predominantly orthopaedic caseload and particular responsibility for complex pelvic surgery and trauma, which often requires assisting in theatre to brace or immobilise the patient appropriately. The pelvic patients often require detailed discharge plans and reports, as many come from other parts of the country or overseas and require intensive rehabilitation and provision of equipment or adaptations in order to return home.

In addition to my role in an independent hospital, I also have a private practice concentrating on the provision of domiciliary physiotherapy to the elderly and to patients recovering from surgery or illness.

In my clinical roles both in the hospital and in the community I enjoy a wide clinical caseload including;

- Post-operative conditions including elective orthopaedic surgery, both upper and lower limb.
- Revision surgery particularly those relating to the DePuy ASR metal on metal implant failures.
- Chronic pain.
- Vertebral fractures due to osteoporosis.
- Cauda equina syndrome.
- Falls

I joined Somek and Associates in 2009 as a Physiotherapy expert and have reported on both liability and quantum matters. I accept instructions from both Claimant and Defendant Solicitors and Insurers and have acted as a Single Joint Expert. I have undergone formal training in the medico-legal process and am fully aware of my responsibilities under the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR) pertaining to Expert Witnesses. I have given oral evidence in court and have been recommended by both Claimant and Defendant lawyers and counsel

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Professional Affiliations

Chartered Society of Physiotherapists
Association of Orthopaedic Chartered Physiotherapists

Professional Education

2000 BMA Accredited Client Handling Keyworker, *Centaur Training*
1996 Certificate in Professional Presentation (Credit), *English Speaking Board*
1996 Certificate in Supervisory Management, *Institute of Supervisory Management*
1990 Diploma in Computer Literacy & Information Technology (Dist), *Royal Society of Arts*
1986 Grad. Dip.Phys, *Manchester Royal Infirmary School of Physiotherapy*

Presentations

2003 - 2010 Fire Safety - Monthly Presentations to 40 Staff members
2000 - 2003 Monthly delivery of Mandatory Manual Training across two Hospital sites

Current Employment

Senior Physiotherapist, Ashtead Hospital, Surrey

Start: **July 2014** - End: **Current**

Please see the introduction for details of my current clinical practice

Deputy Physiotherapy Manager, Ashtead Hospital, Surrey

Start: **January 1999** - End: **July 2014**

Please see the introduction for details of my current clinical practice.

Acting Physiotherapy Manager, Ashtead Hospital, Surrey

Start: **May 1998** - End: **January 1999**

Senior Physiotherapist, The Childrens Trust, Tadworth Surrey

Start: **January 1997** - End: **May 1998**

I worked in a school within the Children's Trust and was responsible for therapy provision to a class of students with profound and multiple learning difficulties.

Senior Physiotherapist, Community, Merton and Sutton Community NHS Trust

Start: **October 1996** - End: **January 1997**

I was responsible for providing a "hospital at home" service across East Surrey.

Clinical Tutor, Physiotherapy, Department of Health and Social Sciences, Coventry University

Start: **April 1996** - End: **May 1998**

I was responsible for visiting and assessing students during their clinical placements in a variety of hospital, community and clinic settings.

Senior Physiotherapist, South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust

Start: **April 1992** - End: **Sept 1996**

My clinical work remained focused on orthopaedics with a particular responsibility for setting up a dedicated hand therapy service.

Senior Physiotherapist, North Manchester Health Authority

Start: **April 1991** - End: **April 1992**

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Senior Physiotherapist, Bradford Hospitals NHS Trust

Start: **October 1989** - End: **April 1991**

Responsible for therapy provision to 3 orthopaedic wards including paediatrics.

Senior Physiotherapist (Locum), High Park Sports Injuries Clinic. Toronto, Canada

Start: **June 1989** - End: **August 1989**

I took a 3 month secondment at a clinic in Toronto where I was responsible for the assessment of patients following Road Traffic Accidents, which required reports to be submitted to OHIP (Ontario Health Insurance Programme) detailing the patients' expected recovery timelines. Reports were also compiled for the WCB (Workers Compensation Board) in order to support claims for further treatment and rehabilitation.

Senior Physiotherapist, Sports Injuries Clinic, BUPA Hospital Elland

Start: **July 1988** - End: **July 1990**

This role included therapy provision for a professional rugby league team.

Physiotherapist, Bradford Health Authority

Start: **September 1986** - End: **May 1991**

I worked on the orthopaedic wards where I held responsibility for three acute orthopaedic wards including a paediatric service, rotating between elective and non-elective units.

Courses / Events

I maintain my CPD by attending clinical and other relevant courses throughout the year.

Medico-legal courses attended include:

2017: Somek & Associates Annual conference, Somek & Associates

2016 Annual Conference Somek and Associates

2015 Annual Conference Somek and Associates

2014 Annual Conference Somek and Associates

2013 Advanced Report Writing Skills for Liability Experts, Pro Solutions

2012 Courtroom Skills, Bond Solon

2011 Report Writing Skills for Physiotherapy and Speech and Language Therapy experts, Somek and Associates

2009 Introduction to Medico-Legal Practice and Report Writing, Somek and Associates

2009 Expert Witness Workshop on CPR