

CURRICULUM VITAE

BARBARA SIMMONS

Registered Nurse

BSc (Hons)

Located in Shropshire

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NMC: 83C1084E

PROFILE

A Registered General Nurse with over 40 years’ experience practicing within the NHS and independently. Her clinical career largely focused on spinal cord injury practicing at the Midland Centre of Spinal Cord Injury, acute and rehabilitation nursing, clinical management, discharge policy and procedure. She holds a diploma in orthopaedic nursing where she has developed extensive expertise in disorders affecting the musculoskeletal system of both upper and lower limbs. Maintains her professional registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council through ongoing practice hours and professional development in accordance with revalidation requirements.

Acquired advanced clinical and case management experience in her role as a Band 7 Resettlement and Community Liaison Officer, delivering advanced clinical practice and providing expert care advice and support to individuals with spinal cord injuries and those with highly complex care needs across both hospital and community settings. As a member of a large multidisciplinary team, she worked closely with Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists, liaising with community services to facilitate the safe and timely discharge of spinal cord-injured patients back into the community. Barbara possesses an advanced understanding of NHS Continuing Healthcare and has acted as a chair of meetings, advising on care provisions and equipment requirements. She has also worked with DWP representatives and has an expert understanding of disability benefits and the wider welfare system.

Able to comment on respiratory conditions, including COPD, mesothelioma, and the neurogenic effects of a spinal cord injury on the respiratory system. Barbara has acted as an expert witness for over 15 years, making recommendations relating to equipment provision and complex care packages including both agency and privately sourced care. Her expertise extends to advising on care planning, aids and equipment needs to support individuals with highly complex requirements.

Undertaken extensive in-house medico-legal training at Fiona Johnson Limited, attended specialist training with Bond Solon and regularly engages with professional development events, including Naidex exhibitions. Barbara has a strong understanding of her duties to the Court under CPR Part 35, having produced over 100 reports and is experienced in producing clear, balanced and well-reasoned expert opinions for both Claimant and Defendant firms. She has also actively participated in conferences and joint discussions and is robust in presentation of her views.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Registered General Nurse
- BSc (Hons) Nursing
- Diploma in Orthopaedic Nursing

RELEVANT CLINICAL SKILLS/SPECIALISMS

- Spinal Cord Injuries – Complete and Incomplete, Cauda Equina and Spinal Disorders
- Neurogenic Bowel and Bladder Management
- Incontinence
- Orthopaedic – Upper and Lower Limb
- Amputations
- Respiratory Diseases – General
- Loss of Services
- General Medical Conditions
- Pain
- Healthcare Research
- Planning, Managing and Implementing Change
- Acute Care, Complete Injury, Incomplete Injury, Paraplegia and Tetraplegia Injuries
- Tissue Viability
- Neurological Injuries

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- Board of Directors for ETHOS
- Member of Tissue Viability Group
- Complex Care Packages Report Writing
- Member of the SCI Paediatric Group
- Spinal Cord Injuries and Acute Care and Rehabilitation
- CPR Part 35 Expert Witness Legal Training

RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

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| 2023 – Date | Expert Witness, Fiona Johnson Ltd. |
| 2001 – 2024 | Resettlement and Community Liaison Officer – Band 7, Team Lead, MCSI |
| 2009 – 2023 | Expert Witness, Barbara Simmons Ltd. |
| 1998 – 2001 | Ward Sister, MCSI |
| 1985 – 1998 | Registered General Nurse, MCSI |
| 1983 – 1985 | Nurse Training, Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, Shropshire and The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital |

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Nursing and Midwifery Council