

Dr. Abbas Lohawala

MBBS, MRCPsych, PGDiP(Neuropsychiatry), HGDip, Cert.EMDR

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERTISE

Professional Qualification

Consultant Neuropsychiatrist

Areas of Expertise

Neuropsychiatric disorders including

- Consequences of Brain injury,
- Concussion Syndrome, causation and severity of brain injury,
- Dementia (early and late onset) and memory disorders in adults
- Alcohol induced injury and Korsakoff's Syndrome
- Capacity assessments for psychiatric patients including those with multiple diagnoses (i.e. learning disability and mental illness)
- Epilepsy
- Sleep disorders
- Somatisation and conversion disorders including non-epileptic attack disorders, Functional Neurological Disorder, Chronic Pain, Fibromyalgia and CFS.
- Huntington's disease
- General Adult Psychiatric Disorders and Complex Diagnoses
- Fitness to plead and stand trial for above conditions

The above assessments can take place in a variety of settings including community, inpatient and custodial settings.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

I have worked in general adult, adolescent, neuropsychiatric, and forensic settings and as a disability assessor for Department of Work and Pensions.

Current job profile includes

- P/T Consultant Neuropsychiatrist at Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust,
- Visiting Consultant Neuropsychiatrist at PJ CARE Neurological Care Centre
- Expert Witness work

- The current job is varied with clinics focused on a multitude of Neuropsychiatric Problems including Dementia, Functional Disorder/Somatization, Sleep, Epilepsy, Brain Injury and other Neuropsychiatric Disorders.
- Inpatient work is focused on General Adult Psychiatric conditions, Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Dementia Care.

Neuropsychiatry Experience

- I have experience of preparing Neuropsychiatric reports for Civil Proceedings including several cases of clinical negligence and Personal Injury from both claimant and defendant instructions. I have done a number of joint statements and conference meetings with other experts.
- In addition, I have done undertaken several family, criminal and court of protection proceedings where Neuropsychiatric expertise was required and appeared in court on 10 occasions.
- Defendant:Claimant:joint 50:40:10
- 20-30 reports per year in last 3 years
- **International Neuropsychiatry Medicolegal Experience** – I have provided Neuropsychiatry Medicolegal expertise for humanitarian causes including assessing victims of Torture in South America (who suffered Brain Injuries due to torture) and a number of Asylum Seekers with Neuropsychiatric Injuries in the UK. This is due to my experience and training in PTSD and work with the Medical Foundation which assists victims of Torture on a voluntary basis.
- **Last Job: Consultant Psychiatrist, Neuropsychiatry and Men's Division, St Andrews Healthcare.** Since February 2014 to January 2015, I worked for the Brain Injury Admissions ward and Low Secure Mental illness ward over two sites. I was also the medical lead for the Neuropsychiatry Division at St Andrews Healthcare for 6 months. This job involves looking after a variety of mental conditions with mix of emotional, behavioral and cognitive issues. I was also the ECT Lead Clinician for St Andrews Healthcare.
- My previous job as a **Consultant Neuropsychiatrist was at the Burden Centre of Neuropsychiatry, Frenchay Hospital in Bristol.** This job along with similar previous experience gives me expertise in Brain Injury, Epilepsy, Sleep Disorders, Somatisation (Medically Unexplained Symptoms), Early Onset Dementias (before age of 65), Huntington's disease, Tourette's syndrome (severe tics) and memory problems in general.
- I have also provided as required Neuropsychiatry cover to Brunel House(Cygnets) in Bristol, Hunters Moors Neuro-Rehabilitation unit in Birmingham, Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust, Voyage care in Bristol and Lancashire and the Retreat Neuropsychiatric Hospital in York. I have developed comprehensive skills in Neuropsychiatric assessment and treatment.

- **CPD in Neuropsychiatry**
 - Cambridge Dementia Course Dec 2018
 - Completed Autism Diagnostic training in April 2016.
 - Edinburgh Sleep Certificate course in March 2015.
 - ADHD assessment and treatment course at Kings College London

- I regularly attend the RCPsych Faculty of Neuropsychiatry meetings and am up to date with cpd in Neuropsychiatry.

Experience with Children and Adolescents

I worked with Adolescents in a tertiary care inpatient setting and also with children in community outpatient clinic for 6 months. I further worked in inner city Birmingham with areas with high psychiatric morbidity in an Early Onset Psychosis team with age group 14 onwards. I have regularly seen parents with mental illness during clinical practice and have prepared reports for Child and Family courts for the same.

Forensic Experience

I currently work part-time in a low secure complex care service with St Andrews Healthcare Birmingham.

I have worked in a medium secure setting and in a bail hostel (approved premises). I regularly visited prison settings and have prepared reports for the criminal courts during training as a Consultant and as an Expert Witness. I have attended court for oral evidence and cross examination with feedback. I was Consultant in a psychiatric intensive care unit and more recently in a locked rehab ward for male mentally ill offenders, many of them under Hospital and Restriction Orders in addition to civil sections of the Mental Health Act. I regularly prepare reports for the Ministry of Justice and Mental Health Review and Managers panels (around two per month).

Disability Analyst

I have been trained as a Disability Analyst attached to the Department of Works and Pensions. I have been specifically trained in assessing disability and this has sensitised me to the needs of a wide variety of population suffering from physical and mental health disabilities.

QUALIFICATIONS, TRAINING & RESEARCH

- **MBBS**-awarded by University of Health Sciences, Andhra Pradesh, India, 2003.
- **MRCPsych**- completed in Autumn 2007.
- **HGDip**-Human Givens Psychotherapy Diploma with Distinction (An amalgamation of different therapy schools with strong links with humanistic therapies and the positive psychology movement) - completed in October 2008.
- **Certificate in EMDR** –April 2010.
- **PGDip In Clinical Neuropsychiatry** – with merit form University of Birmingham, 2010
- **Section 12 approved** (for assessments under the Mental Health act)

- **Approved Clinician** since February 2011 (permission and trained to act as RMO for psychiatric patients detained under the mental health act).
- **Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT)** in General Adult Psychiatry in August 2011.

Training

A full employment history is available on request