



DR KATHRYN HEAD

Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

Pin Number: HCPC – SL07223

Professional Qualifications and Memberships

- PhD: University of Glamorgan (March 2010)
- BSc (Hons) Speech and Language Therapy: University of Wales Institute Cardiff (July 1996)
- Registered General Nurse: University Hospital of Wales Cardiff (September 1989)

Profile

Dr. Kathryn Head is a highly experienced and qualified Speech and Language Therapist with over 25 years of clinical expertise specialising in neurorehabilitation, dysphagia management, and brain injury rehabilitation. Holding a PhD from the University of Glamorgan, a BSc (Hons) in Speech and Language Therapy from the University of Wales Institute Cardiff, and a background as a Registered General Nurse, Dr. Head has contributed significantly to the development of clinical practices and guidelines in the field of Speech and Language Therapy, particularly in the neuro- and stroke rehabilitation sectors.

Dr. Head's clinical practice focuses on treating adults with neurogenic communication and swallowing disorders, particularly in the areas of stroke, brain injury, and complex neurodevelopmental conditions. She has worked across a wide range of settings including stroke units, brain injury rehabilitation units, and specialist hospitals for adults with learning disabilities and challenging behaviours. Her expertise extends to the development and evaluation of evidence-based clinical tools, such as the Head Acute Dysphagia in Stroke Screen (HeADSS), which is widely used for dysphagia screening in stroke patients.

Dr. Head is currently working as an independent consultant and expert witness, providing services for stroke case management, insurance companies, and private adult clients, with a focus on the assessment and management of stroke, brain injury, and other neurological conditions.

Specialisms:

- Acquired Brain Injury
- Dysphagia (impaired swallowing)
- Neuro Speech and Language Therapy (Adults)

Research and Publications

Contributed to NIHR Themed review of evidence: Roads to Recovery March 2017

Head, K., Weeks, K.W., Stroud, A.E & Coll, A (2007) A survey of dysphagia screening England and Wales. International Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation 14(9): 409 - 417

Guideline Development Group/author of specific chapters for: NICE Guidelines Stroke rehabilitation: Long-term rehabilitation after stroke 2013 <http://publications.nice.org.uk/stroke-rehabilitation-cg162>

Awards

Mediawales Innovation Awards 2011 Judges NHS Award. Awarded for the development and evaluation of the Head Acute Dysphagia in Stroke Screen (HeADSS), an evidence- based dysphagia screening tool.

Mediawales Innovation Awards 2013 NHS Award

Awarded for the design and implementation of an accessible patient passport which follows the patient through the stroke pathway.

Leadership and Quality Improvement Award Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. 11/2016

Professional Experience (including dates)

Aug 2024 - Present	Locum Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist Adult Speech & Language Therapy Department, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
Oct 2022 - Present	Neuro Speech and Language Therapist Pinetrees Hospital Cardiff, Iris Care Group
July 2019- Present	Independent Consultant Speech and Language Therapist and Expert Witness Stokes Case Management Cardiff, Insurance companies and Private Adult Clients
Feb 2022 – Aug 2024	Locum Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist Nobles Hospital, Douglas, Isle of Man
2019 – July 2023	Senior Neuro Speech and Language Therapist Brain Injury Unit Ty Aberdafen, Llanelli, Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust
June 2019 – Mar 2020	Consultant Independent Speech and Language Therapist

Brain Injury Wales. The Old Granary, Pyle Road, Nottage
Porthcawl

April 2000 – **Principal Speech and Language Therapist**
Jan 2020 Cwm Taf University Health Board

June 2017– **Wales Speech Therapy Representative**
June 2019 Rehab Cross Party Working Group, Welsh Government