

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

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**NATALIE MARTIN** qualified as an Occupational therapist from Dorset House School of Occupational Therapy, Oxford in 1990 and later graduated from Loughborough University in 2008 with an MSc in Back Care Management.

She initially worked as a Basic Grade, senior 11 and Senior 1 Occupational Therapist for a number of health authorities in the West Midlands. During this time, she gained experience in general surgery neurology, acute medical rehabilitation, spinal injuries, young disabled unit, orthopaedics, rheumatology, mental health, care of the elderly and rehabilitation. This work was a combination of inpatient and outpatient functional assessments and treatment.

Following a move to Wales, Ms Martin eventually specialised in neurology and became a Head IV Occupational Therapist on a stroke rehabilitation unit for five and a half years. This work encompassed the functional assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of patients, supervising OT staff, teaching on the diploma stroke module for nurses, environmental assessments for discharge, wheelchair assessments and moving and handling risk assessments and care plans.

Having worked in the health service for several years, Ms Martin moved to social services undertaking assessments for adults and children with physical disability, learning disability and mental health problems. This role included:

- Assessing adults and children with a range of physical, learning and challenging behaviours including brain injury.
- Identifying the equipment and adaptation needs of adults and children in their own homes and in respite facilities.
- Manual handling risk assessments and care plans for a range of environments including respite and leisure facilities.
- Design of specialist slings for adults and children with complex needs.
- Complex adaptations, including liaison with architects and builders.
- Manual handling training of staff including care staff and family members
- Transportation and vehicle assessments.
- Providing guidance with regards to manual handling policy.
- Negotiating budget responsibilities with key agencies.

In November 2008 Ms Martin became an associate for Personal Care Consultants, later becoming the Director of Case Managers Ltd, specialising in the following:

- Expert Witness Care and Occupational therapy reports for use in personal injury claims.
- Case management of a variety of clients with problems associated with acquired brain injury and personal litigation specialising in paediatric cases.
- Specialist Manual Handling Risk Assessments for social services, health, private clients and for solicitors with regards to medico legal cases both for the defence and the claimant.
- Occupational therapy assessments for people with complex needs and oppositional behaviours including sensory processing difficulties.

- Manual Handling training for a number of social services departments and Primary Care Trusts around the North West and North Wales.
- Providing Occupational Therapy assessments and therefore assisting in the reduction of the OT waiting lists for social services departments in the North West and North Wales.
- Delivering training for the BTec Advanced Award in Provision of Equipment.
- Delivering training for the BTec Advanced Certificate in People Handling Skills.
- Modular Reablement courses for a variety of Social Services Departments focussing on the Personalisation Agenda and Outcome Focused Care.

Ms Martin continues to be an active member of the North West and North Wales Back exchange group and is also registered member of the National Back Exchange. She is registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC Number OT18560) and is a member of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists and Case Management Society UK.

Ms Martin continues to keep up to date with current practice and regularly attends local back exchange meetings, equipment conferences, The National Back Exchange Conference, Royal College of Occupational Therapists Private Practice meetings and Bond Solon conferences and training. Ms Martin has successfully completed the Cardiff University Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate in Civil Law.