

MEDICOLEGAL CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr Tara Collinge
MB BS MRCPsych
Consultant Psychiatrist

Professional Membership

- GMC Specialist Register (Adult and Old Age Psychiatry): 4215758
- Royal College of Psychiatrists: 15000
- Medical Defence Union (MPS): NZ 288678

Professional Qualifications

- Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, (University College, London 1995)
- Membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (1999)
- Approved under Section 12(2) Mental Health Act 1983/2007 (first approved in 2000 and last renewed in 2016)
- Certificate of Completion of Speciality Training, 2004 (General Adult and Old Age Psychiatry)

Medico-legal Practice:

Approximately 60 personal injury reports per annum:

- 50 % claimant; 50% defendant
- Attendance at Court as an expert witness

Areas of Psychiatric Expertise Include:

1. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Travel Phobias

I have over 20 years of experience in the psychiatric management of patients suffering from post traumatic stress disorder and, continue to assess and treat patients for this on a regular basis. Patients have included victims of child abuse, victims of sexual and physical assaults, Asylum seekers (including victims of torture), victims of industrial accidents and ex-military personnel. I also regularly manage patients who have developed PTSD as a result of a car accident and who have developed a comorbid travel phobia.

2. Traumatic Brain Injury with Organic Personality Disorders or Post Concussion Syndrome

Between 2004 and 2005, I assessed patients with cognitive deficits in a NHS Tertiary referral centre. Such assessments involved carrying out a neuropsychiatric assessment and the interpretation of complex neuropsychological tests. I am confident in identifying patients who have developed psychiatric sequelae as a result of traumatic brain injury and have successfully managed such patients in my practice as a Consultant Psychiatrist.

3. Mood disorders – including depression and bipolar affective disorder

I have over 20 years of experience in managing patients with mood disorders and patients with these illnesses form the main part of my daily clinical practice.

4. Alcohol and Drug Misuse/Dependency

As a previous Psychiatric Inpatient Consultant, I regularly assessed and treated patients suffering from alcohol and drug dependence. I am experienced in managing these patients who often have comorbid psychiatric symptoms.

5. Personality disorders

In my clinical practice, I have had over 20 years of experience in managing patients with personality disorders, particularly patients with emotionally unstable personality disorder (sometimes called a borderline personality disorder) and antisocial personality disorder. I have extensive experience in successfully managing the complex risk issues often associated with these disorders.

6. Patients with comorbid physical health conditions including pain

I developed clinical experience in the management of patients with comorbid physical health conditions by providing psychiatric liaison services to patients attending the cardiac, gynaecology and urology clinics at Chelsea and Westminster hospital, London, between 2002 and 2004. I continue to treat patients with comorbid physical health conditions in my outpatient clinics.

7. Somatoform and Conversion Disorders

In providing the psychiatric liaison services highlighted above, I also gained experience in managing patients with somatoform disorders and continue to manage patients who suffer from this condition in my outpatient clinics.

8. Old Age Psychiatry

I have additional training, qualifications and experience in the practice of Old Age psychiatry and continue to assess patients over the age of 65 in my clinical practice. Such patients suffer from a wide range of clinical problems, including those listed above.

9. Mental Capacity

Assessing mental capacity has been an integral part of my everyday clinical practice for more than 20 years. I have extensive experience in assessing individual's capacity to make decisions about their health, care and finances as well as testamentary capacity. I undergo regular refresher training and have also undergone training as a DoLS assessor in this regard.

10. Psychotic Illnesses

I have had over 20 years of experience in managing patients suffering from psychotic illnesses, including illnesses such as schizophrenia, drug induced psychosis and psychosis secondary to mood disorders (such as psychotic depression and mania).

Revalidation and Continuing Professional Development

- I engage with Continuing Professional Development, including in areas relevant to medico-legal work and am in good standing with the Royal College of Psychiatrists
- I am a member of a medico-legal CPD peer supervision group
- I have attended medico-legal training at the Royal College of Psychiatrists and have received advanced forensic training, in preparing personal injury reports, with complex data, through my medico-legal chambers
- I am revalidated by the GMC until March 2024
- I have a licence to practise

Clinical Experience

I have been a Consultant Psychiatrist since 2004. I studied Medicine at University College London and after qualifying as a doctor in 1995, I undertook my basic psychiatric training at University College Hospital, London. I completed my higher training on the Charing Cross Hospital Rotation in London and attained a dual CCST in Adult and Old Age psychiatry.

I was first appointed as a Consultant Psychiatrist in London (Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust). After working for around 20 years in the NHS and gaining a breadth of experience in different settings, I now work in the independent sector.

Current Positions:

- I am currently based at the Priory and Nuffield Hospitals and Litfield House Medical Centre in Bristol where I treat privately funded patients on an outpatient basis.

Previous Positions:

- Substantive Consultant in Adult Inpatient Psychiatry (treating NHS and privately funded patients), The Priory Hospital, Bristol (2016 – 2018)
- Substantive Consultant in Adult Community/Outpatient Psychiatry, Deputy Chair of the Drug and Therapeutics Committee, 2gether NHS Foundation Trust, Gloucestershire (2012 -2016)
- Substantive Consultant in Adult Community/Outpatient Psychiatry, Christchurch, Canterbury District Health Board, New Zealand (2008 - 2011)
- Substantive Consultant in Adult Community and Inpatient Psychiatry, Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care NHS Trust, London (2005-2008)
- Locum Consultant in Old Age Community and Inpatient Psychiatry, North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust (2004 – 2005)
- Charing Cross Hospital, London, Higher Psychiatric (SpR) Training Scheme (2000-2004)
- North London Teaching Hospital (UCH) SHO Rotation Scheme in Psychiatry (1996-1999)

Academic Publications

- 1) Natural Course Of Suicidal Ideation And Treatment Efficacy Need To Be Known; Collinge and Shah; BMJ Nov 2000; No 7271: 1290
- 2) Suicide: Maintaining The Decline In Older People; Shah, Elanchenny, Collinge; Geriatric Medicine Oct 2000; Vol 30(10): 35-38
- 3) Trends In Age Band Specific Suicide Rates Among Elderly People In England And Wales; Shah, Elanchenny, Collinge; Medicine, Science And The Law Apr 2001; 41(2): 102-6

(November 2019)