



Meet Our Expert Witness Paediatric Team

Expert Nurses

Leah Anthony

Leah has experience working as a paediatric diabetes specialist nurse at Barts Health NHS Trust. She has been responsible for delivering family-centred care to children and young people with Diabetes (having previously co-ordinated an insulin pump and sensor service across the Trust).

Sharon Popple

Sharon is an experienced advanced paediatric nurse practitioner, registered general nurse and registered sick children's nurse with over 30 years' nursing experience within the NHS. She is expert in emergency medical nursing and is particularly skilled in the care of critically ill children. Sharon's skills also include tracheotomy care, safe NG tube insertion and removal, venepuncture/blood samples, catheter insertion and removal, lab test evaluation, radiology diagnostics and intravenous therapy. Her clinical career has included senior nursing positions at Great Ormond Street Hospital and Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust within paediatric emergency departments and paediatric intensive care.

Carrie James

Carrie is a registered children's nurse with over 20 years' experience working with children and young adults with long term conditions, disability and complex needs. Throughout her career she has worked collaboratively with children, young adults, parents/carers, multidisciplinary teams, internal and external agencies and is clinically and managerially experienced both in the private and public sector. In 2012 Carrie was awarded the prestigious title of Queen's Nurse, which demonstrates her high level of commitment to patient care and community nursing practice.

Claire Turnbull

Claire is currently the Band 8a operational manager for Children's Continuing Care, managing and developing the children's service and nursing team, and carrying a case load of children with very complex needs, above those that can be managed by Universal and Specialist Services. Their needs can be due to genetic or metabolic conditions, birth injury, Acquired Brain Injury due to sepsis, trauma, meningitis, hypoxia, neurological degenerative conditions, syndromes or undiagnosed neurological and developmental disorders. The majority of the children she manages have profound learning disabilities and her service therefore receives referrals for children who have significant challenging behaviours and/or mental health diagnoses and will often require a specialist residential placement. The service also receives palliative or end of life (EOL) referrals where a package of support is required quickly to enable the child to be at home with their family for EOL care.

Gillian Macdivitt

Gillian is a highly skilled and experienced registered nurse, looking after adolescents from age 12 upwards and adults, specialising in critical care and major trauma. She has over 21 years' healthcare experience in nursing and currently works as a senior charge nurse (Band 7) managing critically ill patients in the largest national trauma centre; leading a team of 39 other healthcare staff and responsible for a 10 bedded critical care (high dependency) unit.



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Expert Speech and Language Therapists

Clare Vaughan

Clare is a highly experienced speech and language therapist working with children and young people aged 5-21 with all manner of conditions affecting their speech and communication ability. She specialises in assisting those children and young people with additional needs, including autism, ADHD and learning difficulties and works closely with families and educational settings to ensure are provided with the most appropriate support, communication aids and overall environment in which to learn and to communicate effectively. As a specialist SALT, Clare has experience of assessments, formulations and diagnosis and treatment/care pathways and is also appointed by families to undertake diagnostic dyslexia assessments. She is an APC certificate holder with PATOSS.

Simone James

Simone has also previously worked with both children and adults with complex health and social care needs due to learning disabilities, pervasive developmental disorders and challenging behaviour. She has experience of working in diagnostic services as part of large multidisciplinary teams supporting both clients and their families to come to terms with life changing diagnoses.

Euan Robertson

Euan has over 20 years' experience within speech and language therapy with advanced skills in assistive technology and Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC), total communication, Autism and learning disabilities. He has worked for the National Autistic Society and within the NHS.

Marukh Rehman

Marukh is a specialist speech and language therapist qualifying at Manchester Metropolitan University in 2013. More recently, Marukh has developed her own thriving independent Speech and Language Therapy service primarily aimed at supporting children with complex needs, from ethnic minority backgrounds. Marukh has experience in supporting children aged 2-19 with moderate-severe developmental and acquired language and communication difficulties. She provides assessment, diagnosis and intervention for speech language and communication needs in the paediatric field.

Melanie Peck

Melanie is a highly specialised speech and language therapist in the field of paediatric and neonatal conditions affecting eating, drinking and swallowing and disorders which impact the development of speech and language. Her particular area of clinical expertise is dysphagia and she provides assessment and therapeutic support for families with infants/children who have difficulties with feeding and swallowing and consultative speech and language services to a Neonatal Unit.



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Expert Occupational Therapists

Stephanie Doar

Stephanie is a highly experienced paediatric occupational therapist with over 12 years' experience working in senior occupational therapy roles within local authority settings. She is specialist in assessment of and interventions for the most complex children and young people and has experience of working with children and young people following disability and injury including Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Congenital Abnormalities, ASD, learning difficulties and Acquired Brain Injury. She is also experienced in working with looked after children.

Claire Ward

Claire is an experienced occupational therapist working with children and adults with upper limb difficulties, cerebral palsy, autistic spectrum disorders, developmental coordination disorder and attention deficit disorder. In May 2014 Claire qualified with the Sensory Integration Network accredited training in collaboration with Ulster University for Sensory Integration to levels one, two and three. Part of this master's qualification involved disseminating and translating current research and science supporting sensory integration theory and practice. This qualification also provided the practical skills required to assess sensory integration and praxis including the Sensory Integration and Praxis Test (SIPT).

Lisa Green

Lisa has considerable experience of disabilities and injuries of children including cerebral palsy, autistic spectrum disorder, learning difficulties, congenital abnormalities and those with dual sensory impairments. Lisa has worked in adult services for the NHS in a variety of clinical positions as well as in social care and public housing. Her significant experience also expands to child services where she was responsible for complex assessments of individuals age 0-18, and where she held a number of senior roles.

Jane Mills

Jane has over thirty years of post-graduate experience of working within the NHS, Social Services, education, residential care and the private sector both across the UK and in South Africa. She has diverse knowledge and experience of working with adults and children with profound disabilities and complex health and social care needs.



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Expert Midwives and Sonographer

Abigail Luck

Abigail is an experienced midwife and registered general nurse with over 20 years' experience in maternity investigations, labour, critical care, stillbirths, neonatal and maternal deaths, neonatal brain injuries and serious incidents. In addition, she has experience in nursing of gynaecology and uro-gynaecology and cancer care. She has worked in clinical settings including Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and in investigation teams and teaching positions for Cranfield University and Baby Lifeline and the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch. She has also worked at St. Thomas' Hospital, London, University College London Hospital, St. George's Hospital, London, as well as in community midwifery.

Ailish Edwards

Ailish is currently practicing as the deputy head of midwifery/nursing. This role consists of supporting the head of midwifery, the divisional director of nursing, clinical director and divisional operations director in the strategic arrangement of Maternity, Gynaecology and Neonatal services. She provides professional leadership and operational management of all divisional services and is the divisional lead for patient experience.

Maxine Spencer

Maxine is an experienced midwife and nurse with 40 years' experience of working within NHS. Her experience covers all aspects of midwifery and gynaecological nursing care. Her midwifery career includes senior leadership and management roles within maternity services as head of midwifery at Taunton and Somerset Foundation Trust and then as director of midwifery at Kings College Hospital, London and as director of midwifery at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital, London. In these senior leadership roles Maxine's priority was to ensure high quality care was provided to women and their families.

Helen Fakoya

Helen is a highly experienced midwife, practicing at a consultant level, having qualified in 2005. She has worked across a variety of Trusts and care settings, including community midwifery, hospital-based midwifery and practice development within both the NHS and private settings. Helen's extensive labour ward experience has given her first-hand experience in injuries relating to triage and assessment, postpartum haemorrhage, instrumental birth and caesarean section, perineal trauma, twin birth, shoulder dystocia, cord prolapse, breech birth and fetal monitoring to include both CTG interpretation and intelligent intermittent auscultation.

Maria A Buaki Sogo

Maria is both a practicing nurse and a midwife, working at consultant level in midwifery as a Band 8B midwife. She is responsible for providing senior leadership and clinical provision of care in the unit, overseeing and accountable for the quality and standard of midwifery care and staff training, supervision and support.

Sarah Bonner

Sarah is a registered midwife and third trimester midwife sonographer currently working in one of the largest Trusts in England, providing care for a diverse and multi-ethnic population. Throughout her career, she has worked across all clinical settings within the maternity system, working both independently and as part of a team; essential to all placements in maternity. Her role involves the organisation and prioritisation of workloads which varies in extent and complexity from day-to-day and includes managing wards and providing high standards of care to women and their families in the antenatal, intrapartum and postnatal periods, safeguarding and protecting everyone in her care.



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Expert Physiotherapists

Holly Spencer

As a clinical specialist respiratory physiotherapist Holly has worked for Cardiff and Vale NHS Health Board managing a case load of clients from birth to adult with complex respiratory needs in acute, outpatients and community settings, including emergency on-call with particular expertise in paediatric populations. Holly has worked for Cardiff and Vale NHS Health Board managing a case load of clients from birth to adult with complex respiratory needs in acute, outpatients and community settings, including emergency on-call with particular expertise in paediatric populations.

Tracy Fields

Tracy has specialised in musculoskeletal conditions, for the majority of her career, particularly in the paediatric field. Tracy has a vast experience of treating children with congenital conditions, complex trauma and following the surgical management of neuromuscular conditions such as cerebral palsy.

Expert Dietician

Rebecca McManamon

Rebecca has experience working with children and young adults from the age 5 to 18. She has specialised in a variety of clinical areas in the NHS, such as diabetes, cardiology, nutrition support (including enteral and parenteral nutrition and pressure ulcer management), cancer and palliative care, whilst maintaining general dietetic skills and knowledge, Rebecca is well placed to provide a balanced assessment using her diverse and in-depth experience.

Make an enquiry



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