



ELAINE HIGGINS

SPECIALISMS:

Amputations, Brain Injury Cerebral Palsy Paediatrics Spinal Injury



PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Registered General Nurse

Registered Midwife

Registered Paediatric Nurse

Member of An Bord Altranais (The Irish Nursing Board)

Diploma in Management National College of Ireland

Diploma Class: Merit 1

I also hold the following accredited courses:

- * Diploma in Management (National College of Ireland)
- * Certificate in Interpersonal Skills and Managing Conflict
- * Certificate in Leading an Empowered Organisation
- * Certificate in Interviewing Skills
- * Certificate in Renal Studies
- * Certificate in Liver Disease
- * Certificate in Family Planning
- * Certificate in Tracheostomy Safety Pathway (ICU - Successful Decannulation to Home)

EXPERIENCE

I qualified in as a nurse in 1971. I have been a nursing expert witness providing care reports for Litigation since 2012. I combine preparing expert care reports with case managing clients throughout the Republic of Ireland. I have prepared quantum reports in cases of Complications of Birth Injury, Cerebral Palsy, Traumatic Brain Injury, Amputations, Spinal injury and Complicated Fractures resulting from road traffic and industrial accidents.

I currently manage children with acquired brain and spinal injuries and traumatic injury following road traffic accidents. I also case manage adult clients with brain and spinal injury and other complex injuries including amputees.

In my role as nursing expert I analyse medical records, deciphering notes of physicians and nurses and prepare care reports. I pride myself in my work ethic and my passion for



healthcare providing a high standard of care to all people.

On the completion of my nurse training in 1971 I took up a position as a staff nurse in general and neurosurgery at Our Lady's Hospital. I gained vast experience in the field of acute neurology care and rehabilitation following catastrophic injuries including brain spinal and amputees.

I completed my paediatric training at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Dublin. Following the completion of my training I completed my general training in St. James's Hospital, Dublin followed by midwifery training at the National Maternity Hospital, Dublin.

Later I transferred to a 25-bed acute medical ward specialising in acute medical nursing, caring for children with cerebral palsy, epilepsy, acute and chronic, respiratory conditions, endocrine and renal diseases.

Acting as shift leader I was responsible for mentoring and monitoring student nurses both in-house and on secondment.

In 2001 I was appointed night superintendent where my duties involved providing professional managerial leadership. This involved the supervision of all night personnel, ensuring that both the high standard of patient care was maintained and the training requirements of student nurses were fulfilled. I was also involved in the counselling, support and guidance of patients, parents and colleagues alike.

From 2002 to 2006 I worked as a clinical nurse manager in nursing administration where I was responsible for the planning, implementation and delivery of an effective service to the prescribed standards in assigned areas, ensuring the well-being of patients, clients and staff.

In 2006, I was promoted to assistant director of nursing and I held this extremely challenging position for some years. Here I played a key role in nursing management within the hospital, where I provided professional, managerial and nursing leadership, ensuring safe and effective care was delivered to patients and carers. This role also involved organising the emergency admissions of critically ill patients and also the emergency transfer of patients to hospitals in the United Kingdom and Sweden for treatment that was not available in Ireland.

I was also responsible for the effective management of clinical risk management and ultimately accountable for all nurses within the hospital.

For the last four years I have worked with Community Case Management Services as a Senior Case Manager and I have been able to transfer those skills, while increasing my caseload of



children and adults with birth or acquired injuries of both brain and spinal and other catastrophic and complex injuries to include amputees throughout Ireland.

I currently manage children with acquired brain and spinal injuries and traumatic injury following road traffic accidents. I also case manage adult clients with brain and spinal injury and other complex needs including spinal injury and amputees.

In my role as Case Manager I act as a facilitator, assessing clients, identifying need and appointing appropriate therapists whom I then manage. I recruit, arrange training and monitor teams of support staff. I organise care plans, complete risk assessments, draw up rehabilitative support programmes and arrange for appropriate equipment and aids to be made available.

I work in accordance with other health professionals in implementing strategies that enable the clients to manage their challenges and so to reduce the effect of their injuries on their lives. I work closely with the clients and their families in helping them to reach their full potential, thereby increasing their quality of life.

I work with support families through the process of rehabilitation and liaise with solicitors when appropriate, acting as an advocate for the clients and families as required.

A highly experienced healthcare professional with a varied background at all levels of paediatric care.

- * A caring professional who treats all patients with dignity and respect.
- * Flexible and adaptable, a hard worker who remains calm under pressure
- * Highly motivated, organised and proactive, ability to work in a team and also on own initiative.