

Helene Boonin

Case Manager

Independent Occupational Therapist

Profile

Helene is a highly skilled independent occupational therapist and case manager with extensive experience across the statutory and independent sector.

She has a particular interest in working with clients with physical disabilities following trauma and has specific expertise with upper limb conditions including amputations and peripheral nerve, brachial plexus and orthopaedic injuries, as well as scar management.

Specialisms

- Musculo-skeletal / orthopaedics
- Hand injury
- Amputations - upper limb / lower limb
- Scar management & desensitization
- Upper limb / finger amputations

Ages covered

- Adult
- Paediatric

Biography

Since qualifying in 1982, Helene has had extensive experience of working with both adults and children who have experienced trauma resulting in amputations and orthopaedic, brachial plexus and work-related injuries.

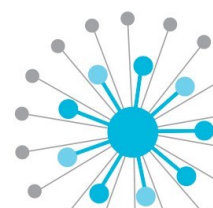
Helene has been working as a case manager since 2004 and is passionate about enabling her clients to regain their quality of life following an accident or injury. She employs her occupational therapy skills using a holistic approach and by communicating effectively with all relevant parties. Her goals are predominantly to restore a client's function and independence at home, work and in their leisure pursuits.

She has had extensive experience of carrying out detailed assessments of need and writing comprehensive and informative case management reports for all parties. She is experienced in sourcing both suitable assistive equipment and appropriately qualified healthcare professionals and in liaising with all members of the multi-disciplinary team to achieve effective outcomes.

Helene has also had extensive experience of vocational assessment and rehabilitation. She has carried out numerous workplace assessments on a variety of setting including farms, factories and offices. This has included observation and analysis of the client's work tasks, ergonomic assessment and planning phased return to work programmes to suit the needs of the client and their employer.

Helene maintains her clinical practice on a part-time basis by running a private hand therapy service. Referrals are received from a variety of sources including solicitors, employers, insurance companies, rehabilitation companies and medical consultants. Clients are either seen in their own homes or at her private clinic setting.

Since 2004, Helene has also been working as an expert witness in care and rehabilitation. This has involved providing detailed medico-legal reports for the courts, helping her to understand the litigation process and further hone her report writing skills.



Qualifications

- Diploma of the Royal College of Occupational Therapists (DipCOT), Salford College of Technology, 1982
- BSc (Hons) in Healthcare & Welfare, Salford University, 1992

Memberships

- Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)
- British Association of Hand Therapists (BAHT)
- Case Management Society UK (CMSUK)
- Royal College of Occupational Therapists (RCOT)
- Royal College of Occupational Therapists Specialist Section - Independent Practice

Contact details

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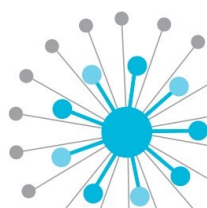
Helene.boonin@independenceworks.net

Website:

www.independenceworks.net

Clinical skills and experience

- Detailed assessments of clients with a physical disability and associated psychological conditions such as; complex musculoskeletal injuries, multiple fractures, amputations, nerve damage and neurological conditions.
- Provides a tailored programme of therapy and rehabilitation for both adults and children.
- Advice is given for therapeutic exercise, grip strengthening, scar management, desensitization and improved function.
- Working with client, their families/carers and liaising with all members of the treatment team to facilitate the development of effective and timely interventions to achieve positive outcomes for the individual, promoting their personal independence.
- Case management experience with the ability to communicate effectively with all members of the multi-disciplinary team to achieve effective outcomes.
- Vocational rehabilitation provision including work-based assessments, functional assessments and the development of graded return to work programmes.
- Experienced at negotiating with employers to ensure the best possible outcome for the employee - includes making recommendations and offering advice such as correct postural techniques, suitable seating, adaptations, specialised equipment and suggesting realistic alterations to the employee's role and hours to suit the needs of the employer and the employee's clinical needs.
- Extensive experience in general occupational therapy, including carrying out activities of daily living (ADL) assessments, functional assessments and home visits. Liaising with statutory services when appropriate and enabling the client to be as independent as possible through accessing suitable equipment and other treatment modalities.
- Care expert since 2004 with extensive experience of writing medico legal reports.
- Committed to continuing professional development - full details of recent training are available on request.
- Client and solicitor feedback/testimonials are available on request.



Career history – private sector

Independent Occupational Therapist & Case Manager - Independence Works Ltd 2011 - present

- Completing independent assessments for insurance companies for personal accident and personal injury claims.
- Implementing vocational rehabilitation to facilitate a client's return to their previous employment or to support them to redeploy to suitable employment.
- Liaison with treating professionals, consultants, GPs, physiotherapists and counselling services to coordinate and manage care requirements.
- Liaison with solicitors dealing with personal injury claims.
- Working closely with claims handlers to ensure that any rehabilitation programme remains within agreed budget.
- Skilled at completing accurate, objective case reports within set service level agreements and making recommendations for provision of on-going treatment or equipment.
- Providing regular update reports to inform all parties of case progress and completing a closure report once all goals have been addressed.
- Source equipment and professional services based on individual need.

Medico-Legal Care Expert 2004 - 2016

- Associate with Julie Jennings & Associates, Care & Occupational Therapy Services - extensive experience writing medico-legal care expert reports for both claimant and defendant.

Independent Occupational Therapist & Case Manager 2004 - present

- Provision of private hand therapy services including assessments and rehabilitation for a variety of private occupational health and rehabilitation companies as well as taking direct referrals from solicitors, employers, insurance companies and case managers.
- Receive referrals from medical consultants for the provision of thermoplastic splints, hand therapy and scar management at a private clinic setting.

Career history – statutory sector

Senior OT & Acting Team Leader, St James's University Teaching Hospital, Leeds 1990 - 2004

- Worked as part of a musculoskeletal team with in and out-patients for orthopaedic and plastic surgery units.
- Developed a bespoke splinting service and a therapy lead flexor tendon clinic.
- Active involvement in regular adult and children's hand clinics; involved in the development of therapeutic skills working with upper limb and brachial plexus injuries, congenital deformities, traumatic amputations and treatments following plastic and reconstructive surgery and orthopaedics.
- Managed and supervised occupational therapy staff and students.

Occupational Therapist, Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust 1982 - 1990

- Worked in various hospitals within the trust as a basic grade in a rotational post including paediatrics, orthopaedics, psychiatry, care of the elderly, hand injuries, general medicine and surgery.
- As a senior therapist worked in medicine, surgery and rheumatology, with responsibility taken for the assessment, treatment and timely discharge of patients.
- Regularly completed home visits and liaised with statutory services.
- Actively involved in an outpatient clinic accepting referrals from GPs for a variety of diagnoses including arthritic conditions.

