

## Jo Atkinson, Mres (Oxon) BSc OT (Hons)

Jo Atkinson is an Occupational Therapist registered with the Health Professions Council with fourteen years professional practice experience. She has a Master of Science by Research Degree (Faculty of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford). She is a member of the British Association of Occupational Therapists.

She is currently an independent practitioner in Yorkshire and a lecturer at the University of Bradford. She is module leader for two courses focused on the occupational needs of working age adults/older people and occupational therapy practice skills. She specialises in teaching about conditions such as stroke, brain and spinal cord injury. She has also worked at York St John University teaching undergraduate and postgraduate courses on for example evidence based practice in neurology, ergonomics, wheelchairs, posture and seating.

Prior to this Jo Atkinson practiced as an occupational therapist in the National Health Service and Social Services. She graduated in 1993 and took a rotational post in neurosciences (acute neurology, neurosurgery and older person's wards) and then worked at Rivermead

Rehabilitation Centre, Oxford with people after stroke, spinal and brain injury and acute and progressive neurological conditions. She then went on to gain general medical and further neurological rehabilitation experience in acute hospitals.

She gained her National Board Certification in Occupational Therapy in the United States and worked at a sub-acute and skilled nursing facility for people with general medical, trauma, orthopaedic and vascular conditions. Back in the UK she worked in a Children and Families Team, as a care manager with an Adult Physical Disabilities Team and in a Specialist Palliative Care Team.

Research work has included providing occupational therapy in nursing and residential homes as part of an evaluation and working with a multi-disciplinary team completing in-depth assessments with people after stroke. She presented a paper at the World Federation of Occupational Therapists Conference in 2002 and has published papers with colleagues in *Stroke* and the *British Journal of Occupational Therapy*.