

Name: Laura Barker

Profession: Registered Dietitian and Dysphagia Practitioner

Qualification:

BSc Hons Dietetics – Leeds Beckett University – 2015

PENG Clinical Update Course – MSc 20 Credits - Queen Margaret University - 2019

Basic Dysphagia Course (Adults) – MSc 30 Credits - Sheffield Hallam University - 2020

Special Interest: Nutrition Support, Dysphagia, Neurological Disorders, Older People

Base: Barnsley

Personal Statement, Experience and Employment:

Laura is a Registered Dietitian with nearly 10 years' experience in the public sector (NHS), specialising exclusively in oral and enteral nutrition support at Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust. She currently works as a Clinical Specialist Dietitian, focusing on neurological disorders in both rehabilitative and degenerative settings, including stroke, brain injury, motor neurone disease, Huntington's disease, and Parkinson's disease. Her practice spans both community and inpatient neurorehabilitation services.

Laura can assess the nutritional needs, manage swallow and feeding difficulties, optimise diet for specific neurological conditions, prevent and manage nutrition-related complications and support longer-term quality of life.

Throughout her career and since graduating from Leeds Beckett University, Laura has also supported patients with COPD, cancer, and those requiring 24-hour community care and input within forensic services. Laura has also led on and successfully implemented borough-wide projects, including tackling malnutrition in care homes and the appropriate use of oral nutritional supplement prescriptions within primary care.

In addition to her clinical expertise, Laura is trained as a Dysphagia Practitioner, enabling her to provide safe and tailored swallowing recommendations for diet and fluids while ensuring patients' nutritional and hydration needs are met.

She is actively involved in student training within the NHS and is a committed advocate for Freedom to Speak Up and the Mental Capacity Act (2005).

Continuous Professional Development (CPD):

A requirement of professional registration is undertaking and recording (CPD). Examples include courses in;

- Blood Biochemistry for Dietitians
- Founder of the South Yorkshire Home Enteral Feeding Supervision Group

- Leadership Development Offer (18-month leadership programme) – Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust
- Reviewer for Quality Peer Review (Inpatients)
- Civility and Respect Training
- Insights Discovery
- Emotional Intelligence - Leading Teams

Key areas of expertise:

- Oral nutrition support
- Enteral nutrition support
- Behaviour change
- Dysphagia
- Nutrition in End-of-Life and Dementia Care
- Malnutrition Management in Care Homes
- Mental Capacity Act (2005)

Professional Affiliations:

- HCPC DT28522
- Full Member of the British Dietetic Association 16387 and Neurosciences Specialist Group
- Co-Author of the British Dietetic Association Care Home Digest, First Edition
- Currently in post as Lead Allied Health Professional within Rehabilitation Directorate of Rotherham Doncaster South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (Doncaster Physical Health and Neurodiversity)

Additional Information

Full UK clean driving Licence

CRB/DBS Checked