

Assessment and management of people with Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness (PDOC): An interdisciplinary evidence based approach

**Presenters: Helen Gill-Thwaites MBE, MSc, Dip COT and
Karen Elliott PhD, MSc, Dip COT, Cert Ed**

Dates: Wednesday 20th February 2019- Sunday 24th February 2019:
SMART assessor training 5 day workshop including day 1 overview of
an Interdisciplinary Team Approach to the Management of Patients
in Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness (PDOC)

Venue: Thomas and Rachel Moore Education Centre,
Liverpool Hospital,
Liverpool, Sydney NSW

To register please visit:

<https://www.swslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/liverpool/events/pdoc/default.html>

Limited places available so please **register by Friday 18th January 2019**

Places will be capped for this workshop

SMART (Sensory Modality & Rehabilitation Technique) assessor training 5-day course

Day 1: An Interdisciplinary Team Approach to the Management of Patients in Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness (PDOC)

This component of the 5 day training workshop will enable clinicians to develop further understanding of Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness (PDOC) and the challenges commonly faced.

The workshop is targeted at medical, nursing and allied health personnel and focuses on a practical approach to recognising and interpreting responses indicative of awareness, with a view to addressing the contributors to a misdiagnosis.

It includes the consideration of interdisciplinary standardised assessments, outcomes, and common issues in the management of this complex patient group, whilst also supporting their families (including which standardised assessments are best for which context).

We will consider up to date research, guidelines and practice using case studies and interactive workshops.

Day 2 to 5: SMART assessor training

The SMART (Sensory Modality & Rehabilitation Technique) is a standardised investigative and assessment tool specially designed for patients with prolonged disorders of consciousness (PDOC). SMART is recommended as a tool of choice in the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) Guidelines 2013.

The SMART course has been developed to provide the SMART assessor with the relevant skills and knowledge to learn how to conduct the SMART Assessment to a competent standard. In addition they will also become more familiar and skilled in the observation and assessment of this client group. The course has therefore been designed to:

- Increase their awareness of the relevant terminology
- Optimise understanding of the principles and considerations for assessment of the vegetative state (VS) and minimally conscious state (MCS) patient.
- Identify responses observed in patients in vegetative and minimal conscious states
- Develop ability to categorise the level and meaning of these responses.
- Develop competency with the application of all aspects of SMART including the development of appropriate intervention plans and management strategies for patients in vegetative and minimally conscious states

The training is designed for senior neurological clinicians (AHPs, clinical psychologists, nurses, doctors) and will enable the delegate to meet the person specification for assessors of PDOC as outlined in the RCP guidelines. The delegate will develop both the skills and knowledge of PDOC and the SMART investigative process, gain skills in the analysis of the investigative process, identifying where the client is currently placed on the diagnostic spectrum and possess the skills to create a bespoke intervention plan.

Following completion of the training the delegate will be required to complete one clinical SMART assessment, with full support from a mentor, in order to complete the SMART accreditation process. Re-accreditation is required every four years.

Places will be capped for this workshop

Cost: \$1000 including GST

WORKSHOP FEE INCLUDES PROVISION OF THE SMART TRAINING MANUALS AND STANDARDISED ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT FORMS

About the presenters

Helen Gill-Thwaites MBE, MSc, Dip COT

Helen Gill-Thwaites, a SMART Master, has worked at the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability (RHN) in London since 1989 and in this time has developed considerable experience in the assessment of VS and MCS patients. Helen was head of the Occupational Therapy department from 1994-2005. Together with Dr Karen Elliott with Ros Munday, she has dedicated her work to the development of the SMART tool, which has been designed to detect potential awareness in the VS and MCS patient. Andrews et al (1996) reported that of 30 patients admitted with a diagnosis of VS, 43% were found to be aware following an assessment with SMART. To standardise the tool, Helen has conducted a range of research studies, published papers in medical journals (see References), designed and led SMART assessor accreditation courses, and presented at conferences worldwide. Helen has also developed SMART Tracker for use in research and acute settings, and led the review of the new version of SMART.

In the Royal College of Physicians' guidelines, SMART is recommended in the law courts as a tool of choice to support expert physicians in their diagnosis of the patient.

In 2000, Helen jointly won the BBC People's Award for Innovation with her colleague Ros Munday. She was appointed as an International Fellow at the Institute of Neuropalliative Rehabilitation (RHN) in 2003. In 2011, Helen received an MBE in the New Year's Honours List. She was a member of the Royal College of Physicians' working party that revised the guidelines on the management of patients with PDOC. She has conducted a number of medico-legal SMART assessments and acted as an Expert Witness on several prominent cases in the Royal Courts of Justice. Helen is co director of Gill- Thwaites & Elliott specialising in the assessment of PDOC clients and training team to optimise their intervention with the client.

Karen Elliott PhD, MSc, Dip COT, Cert Ed

Karen Elliott, a SMART Master, She took up a post in 1985 at the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability (RHN), where she was based until 1994. During that time she worked primarily on the Profound Brain Injury Unit with patients in VS and MCS.

In 1987, Karen pioneered the Occupational Therapy services on the first Brain Injury Unit in the UK and she initiated the development of a sensory stimulation programme to meet the needs of the patients being admitted to the pilot Profound Brain Injury Unit at the RHN. This was developed over the years to include both an assessment and treatment programme, and she worked together with Helen Gill-Thwaites and Ros Munday to develop a tool which has been subsequently standardised to the SMART assessment used today. The early development of this assessment included a 3-year project in collaboration with the University of Surrey into 'The Efficacy of Sensory Stimulation'. The project generated a range of papers, which utilised early assessment protocols and enabled refinement of the assessment tools through analysis of research and growing experience of the therapists. Karen was head of the Occupational Therapy department, and her involvement in research with patients in VS led to her undertaking a Master's degree in research methods at King's College London. On leaving the RHN, Karen became Course Director of Occupational Therapy at the Essex School of Occupational Therapy.

In 2006, Karen took up a post as Research Fellow in Occupational Therapy at the Institute of Neuropalliative Rehabilitation (RHN), which brought a return to her primary interest in PDOC. The research led to her completing a PhD in 2011 on 'The Impact of Low Awareness States on the Occupational Life of Family Members'.

Karen was a member of the Royal College of Physicians' working party that revised the guidelines on the management of patients with PDOC in the UK. She has conducted a number of medico-legal SMART assessments and acted as an Expert Witness in the Royal Courts of Justice. Karen has worked extensively with Helen on the development of SMART Version 3 and SMART version 3 Accredited Assessor course. Karen is co director of Gill- Thwaites & Elliott specialising in the assessment of PDOC clients and training team to optimise their intervention with the client.

The Thomas and Rachel Moore Education Centre is based in Liverpool Hospital, located near entrance A on the below map.



LIVERPOOL HOSPITAL VISITOR MAP



ENTRANCES LIST

- A** EDUCATION
- B** MAIN FRONT ENTRANCE TO CLINICAL BUILDING
- +** EMERGENCY
- E** GP AFTER HOURS
- F** ISOLATION DIALYSIS
- G** TRANSIT LOUNGE
- J** MAIN REAR ENTRANCE TO CLINICAL BUILDING
- K** BRAIN INJURY
- L** MENTAL HEALTH
- N** CANCER THERAPY
- Q** HEALTH SERVICES
- R** DRUG HEALTH

LEGEND

- A** → ENTRANCE
- P1** → CAR PARK ENTRY
- +** EMERGENCY ENTRY
- i** INFORMATION DESK
- ↑** LIFT
- ♂ ♀** TOILETS
- ♿** WHEEL CHAIR TOILET
- 👶** BABY CHANGE