

Looking Forward : Specialist Rehabilitation Services in Ireland How should these services be developed and delivered?

Syndicate Session 2 – Neurobehavioural & Disorders of Consciousness Services

The Neurobehavioural & Disorders of Consciousness services are examples of two of the specialist services provided within the brain injury programme at the National Rehabilitation Hospital.

The Neurobehavioural service comprises of a specialist clinic dedicated to the behaviour, personality and neuropsychological changes experienced by patients who have an acquired brain injury. It centres on close collaboration between Neuropsychology, Rehabilitation Medicine & Neuropsychiatry.

The Disorders of Consciousness service was established to provide a specialist interdisciplinary approach to meet the rehabilitation needs of a growing number of people surviving severe injury and illness who present with low awareness states. A disorder of consciousness is one in which alertness and awareness are significantly altered or diminished and include; coma, the vegetative state, the minimally conscious state and the emerging minimally conscious state. Patients typically referred to the service are those who have an unknown or unidentified level of awareness.

Chaired by: Aisling Heffernan, Speech & Language Therapy Manager, NRH

Speakers:

- Dr Mark Delargy, Medical Director of the Brain Injury Programme
- Dr. Simone Carton, Manager of Psychology Services
- Ms Alison McCann, Senior Occupational Therapist