



Dr Denise Andrea Harris

PhD, Occupational Therapist, Case Manager

Types of Reports Undertaken: Quantum Occupational Therapy Reports and Combined Care & OT Reports

Locations covered: Scotland, North East, North West, Midlands

Client Age categories: Adults



Specialisms:

- Brain Injury
- Clinical Negligence
- End of Life
- Falls
- Healthcare Education
- Housing Adaptations
- Motor Neurone
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Musculoskeletal
- Neurology
- Neurorehabilitation
- Orthopaedics
- Palliative Care
- Parkinsons
- Progressive Neurological Diseases
- Spinal Injury
- Stroke
- Trauma

Profile:

I am an independent consultant occupational therapist, researcher, publisher, and educator with twenty-one years of experience assessing and treating clients across the NHS, Social Services, and private sector companies.

I have worked in various specialist areas, including trauma and orthopaedics, community neurological rehabilitation, rapid response, fall prevention, palliative and end-of-life care, housing, aids and adaptations, case management, head injuries, healthcare education, and as an OT and Care Expert.

I completed a multi-phase study utilising two distinct methodologies: hermeneutic phenomenology and autoethnography. This research aimed to interpret the meaning of existence for individuals with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and their family caregivers.

Through my independent practice, I have had the opportunity to work as an associate. As an occupational therapist and care expert, I use my skills and knowledge to understand a person's situation, encompassing their world, losses, and potential for future rehabilitation. Based on this understanding, I provide recommendations to help individuals live as they did before their illness or injury.



Maggie Sargent & Associates

After obtaining my PhD, I established my independent practice. The Lifeworld Approach to Care, developed from my research study findings, is a person-centred care model that focuses on understanding individuals within a broader temporal context beyond the constraints of their illness or injury. In 2023, I authored a book chapter detailing my research journey, published papers, and developed a person-centred care model for MND. This model emphasises individuality and includes three key elements: 1. presuppositions, 2. acceptance, and 3. temporality.

I have presented my research and person-centred care model for MND at international and national conferences, sharing my findings with professionals and students interested in implementing this approach. Most recently, I was invited to Dubai to present my published paper: Harris DA, Jack K, Wibberley C. There is a need to consider 'temporality' in person-centred care of people with motor neurone disease. *J Evaluation in Clinical Practice*. 2023; Vol 29, No.5, 802-807 [doi:10.1111/jep.1854](https://doi.org/10.1111/jep.1854)

Qualifications & Memberships:

- Doctor of Philosophy, Faculty of Health, Psychology and Social Care/Nursing, MMU, 2020
- Master of Philosophy, School of Health Sciences, University of Salford, Manchester, 2014
- Master of Research, School of Health Sciences, Lancaster University, Lancaster, 2009
- BSc Hons Occupational Therapy, University of Salford, Manchester, 2003
- Healthcare Professions Council Registered
- Member of Royal College of Occupational Therapists (since 2003)

Publications:

- Harris, D.A. (2024) There is more to a person than motor neurone disease. *Palliative Care - Current Practice and Future Perspectives*. Intech Open. Available at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5772/intechopen.1002326>.
- Harris, D.A. (2020) Interpreting the Meaning of Existence for the Person with Motor Neurone Disease and their Family Carer(s). PhD Thesis: Manchester Metropolitan University.
- Harris, D.A., Jack, K. and Wibberley, C. (2020) The need to consider 'temporality' in person-centred care of people with motor neurone disease (In press). Accepted Manuscript, 4 June 2020, *European Journal for Person-Centred Healthcare*.
- Harris, D.A., Jack, K. and Wibberley, C. (2019) Making her end of life her own: further reflections on supporting a loved one with motor neurone disease. *International Journal of Palliative Care Nursing*, Vol 25, No.6, 284-292
- Harris, D.A., Jack, K. and Wibberley, C. (2018) The meaning of living with uncertainty for people with motor neurone disease. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 27, 2062-2071.
- Harris, D.A. (2017) Doing research drawing on the philosophy of existential hermeneutic phenomenology. *Palliative and Supportive Care* 15, 267-269.
- Harris, D.A. (2017a) Supporting a loved one with motor neurone disease. *Palliative and Supportive Care* 15, 141-142.
- Harris, D.A. (2016) Existential concerns for people living with motor neurone disease: who is listening to their needs, priorities, and preferences. *British Journal of Occupational Therapy*, Vol 79 (6) 391-393
- Harris, D.A. (2015) Lived-through past, experienced present, anticipated future: Understanding "existential loss" in the context of life-limiting illness. *Palliative and Supportive Care* 13, 1579-1594
- Harris, D.A. (2014). 'Existential loss' in the context of Motor Neurone Disease: A Hermeneutic Phenomenological Study. Unpublished thesis: University of Salford, Manchester.
- Harris, D. and Fineberg, I.C. (2011) Multidisciplinary palliative care teams' understanding of Mental Capacity Act 2005 'best interest' determinations. *International Journal of Palliative Nursing*. Vol.17 Number 1. pp 20-23