

# Bio of Priti Bhagat



*1 Priti Bhagat*

## Meet Priti Bhagat

Hello, my name is Priti, and I have been a registered Occupational Therapist (OT) in the UK since 2002.

I began my career as a rotational OT in an acute hospital setting before moving into community practice, working across a variety of clinical areas. These experiences have allowed me to develop a broad skill set and deepen my expertise, ultimately leading to my current role as Clinical Service Lead for our Community Rehabilitation/Integrated Therapy Team.

In this position, I provide both strategic and clinical leadership to ensure the delivery of high-quality, patient-centred rehabilitation services. I oversee a multidisciplinary team, including occupational therapists, physiotherapists and support staff who are working together to provide safe, effective and evidence-based care.

As part of the therapy leadership team, I am responsible for service development and transformation, collaborating closely with our operational lead, head of services and partner organisations. Our goal is to shape care pathways that meet the evolving needs

of our population and integrating health and social care services wherever possible.

Recent innovations include:

- **Digital rehabilitation alongside face-to-face service provision**, focusing on ageing well, sleep hygiene and managing fatigue and anxiety.
- **Partnerships with local leisure centres** to create better pathways for patients to maintain physical activity post-rehabilitation.

Clinically, I support complex cases and guide decision-making across the team, ensuring alignment with national guidelines and local priorities. I take the lead on quality assurance and audits, and I manage formal complaints, inquests and tribunals, providing staff with guidance and representation when required.

Staff development is a cornerstone of my role. I mentor team members, facilitate continuing professional development, and foster a learning culture through initiatives such as our 'Learning Circles' which are safe spaces for reflective practice and shared learning after incidents. I also oversee supervision and performance reviews, helping the team remain resilient and responsive.

Engaging with patients, carers and stakeholders is central to my approach. We actively seek feedback to continuously improve our service and ensure it remains person-centred and inclusive.

It's a busy and challenging time within the NHS, but I truly value the people I work with. Their dedication makes the role rewarding and seeing patients progress and achieve their goals is what makes this work worthwhile.