

SARAH: HYPOXIC BRAIN INJURY & PDOC

Sarah, 59, came to Hamberley Neurocare in 2024 after living with the long-term effects of a hypoxic brain injury sustained following a heart attack 15 years ago. On admission, she presented in a prolonged disorder of consciousness (PDOC) with significant spasticity in both upper and lower limbs, complex postural needs, and ongoing respiratory compromise due to reduced airway protection, which has led to recurrent chest infections.

Sarah receives support with nutrition, continence, and spasticity management through specialist interventions. She was admitted with a severe pressure sore requiring attention.



GOALS & OUTCOMES

COMFORT, STABILITY AND MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE

The agreed goals were to manage Sarah's clinical needs and reduce the risk of hospital admission, while creating opportunities for sensory stimulation and meaningful connections.



STEP 1

ASSESSMENT AND FIRST STEPS

Following assessment, Sarah was provided with a specialist hydro-tilt chair for daytime postural support. She was referred to the local wheelchair service to ensure appropriate equipment provision and is awaiting a tailored sleep system to support her overnight positioning—helping maintain her respiratory function, aid postural drainage, and better manage her spasticity.

STEP 2

MEANINGFUL GAINS IN A SPECIALIST ENVIRONMENT

With expert nursing and therapy input, Sarah's pressure sore has healed, her reliance on antibiotics and risk of respiratory compromise has significantly reduced and her overall comfort is improved. In the last three months, she has not required hospital admission for chest infections—a notable change given her history. Sarah's new stability has allowed the team to prioritise quality-of-life goals.

STEP 3

PRIORITISING QUALITY OF LIFE

Sarah now takes part in multi-sensory experiences built around the things the team know she previously enjoyed. She's attended live band performances on site and explored immersive environments like a beachthemed session, complete with familiar sounds, scents, and visuals. Weekly musical activities—from live bands to West End favourites—are now a valued part of her routine.

Her responses to these sessions are carefully observed, and we've completed the Coma Recovery Scale-Revised (CRS-R) to track any changes in her level of consciousness. We also plan to use the WHIM tool during these activities once available.

Empowering recovery, restoring lives



1:1 Support available



