

**'HELLO IN THERE: non-verbal engagement techniques for Therapeutic
Clown Practitioners'**

a jointly-led workshop hosted by practitioners, designed for practitioners

Doubtful. Tentative. Instinctive. These words can describe our approaches with our non-verbal or 'pre-verbal' clients. Some of these clients are medically fragile; some are stable and we have had long relationships with them as clinicians. But there are always questions and doubts, opportunities to learn and the possibility to listen to our artistic instincts.

This workshop is designed to serve Hospital Clowns seeking to add to their artistic 'toolkit' and build confidence when working with clients who are non- or pre-verbal. While many of these approaches would be suited to clients of any age, most are aimed at pediatric populations.

Techniques will be shared involving musical and sensory props, body percussion, vocalization and movement within an interactive role-play format.

This workshop was co-created by TCs from Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital (Toronto) and those of Hearts and Minds (Scotland) and was presented at the Healthcare Clowning conference in Lisbon, 2016