

A * D A Y * I N * T H E * L I F E

Catriona McHale – Registered Nurse



My typical day...

There really is no stereotypical day in the life of a nurse. It is impossible to predict what the shift will entail when you walk on the ward at the beginning of the day as things can change so quickly when it comes to people's health. Patients can rapidly become unwell without showing any indication. New patients will be admitted as soon as a bed becomes available meaning the ward is constantly evolving. However, it is safe to say the day is definitely not boring. Generally, my alarm goes off very early in the morning as my shift starts at 7:30am. Every shift starts with a briefing whereby the night shift There is not always a good outcome in nursing and some patients in our care die. I still feel upset when this happens, but I always take comfort in the fact I gave the best support I could when a patient needed it the most.

The best part of my job...

When a patient and their family thank me for all I have done for

nurses hand over the care plan for each patient. After this, I begin to carry out my nursing tasks such as assisting patients to take medication, giving injections and administering blood transfusions. I work within the surgical speciality which mainly requires me to prepare patients for major surgery and receive them back onto the ward from the intensive care unit post-surgery (usually with lots of tubes and drains in them that I will later have to remove).

I'm responsible for...

A registered nurse holds a lot of responsibility and is legally accountable for the care of the them. This provides so much job satisfaction!

How I got here...

After leaving St Antony's in 2013 with 10 good GCSE's, I went on to study A levels at Xaverian College where I achieved ABB in Psychology, Sociology and Theology. Most recently, I studied at the University of Manchester in which I graduated with a first class honours degree in Adult

patients they are assigned to on that shift. Importantly, I regularly monitor the vital signs of patients (blood pressure, heart rate, temperature etc.) and take swift action when I think someone is deteriorating. This includes administering medications via veins, alerting doctors, accurately recording the event and liaising with family. Sometimes medical emergencies occur for example, if a patient has a cardiac arrest. It is my job to begin resuscitating the patient until more staff literally come running from other parts of the hospital to help me.

The worst part of my job...

nursing. I now work at Manchester Royal Infirmary as a Staff Nurse on a very busy surgical ward.

Salary and career progression...

The starting salary for a staff nurse is £22,000, reaching £28,000 within a few years. Wage increases with promotion meaning senior nurses can earn around £40,000 (or even higher for very senior nurses).