

Working with Us

Job Title

Swinley Ward – Auxiliary Nurse Team

Entry Route

Application Route / Educational Route

Role

Auxiliary Nurse

Typical Day

Our day starts with handover from the night staff, this is a verbal report of the night shifts events and is for the whole team. The nurse in charge then reads out each patient's expected date of discharge and the Auxiliary Nurses put these on the white boards behind each patient's bed with consultants name, nurse in charge of their care that shift and their preferred name. The nurse in charge then allocates a Qualified Nurse and Auxiliary Nurse to each bay of patients and off we go! The housekeepers give out the breakfasts and drinks, the Qualified Nurses pair up and administer the medications to the patients and the Auxiliaries record each patient's blood pressure, pulse, temperature and respirations. We are all trained to do this as the results can be life changing, we record on the charts which are called MEWS charts and each result is scored. If the scores are high then we must inform the Qualified Nurses so that they may take over the care and alert the Doctors if required.

Once this has finished we start the mornings work, this includes assisting our patients with hygiene needs, mobilising to the bathroom or to have a shower. It is important that we check our patients for any deterioration in the skin as when patients cannot mobilise as well as usual they are at risk of developing pressure sores and so it is vital we check for these. We have to empty catheter bags and document the amount as well as documenting how much our patients are drinking. Some of us are trained to change simple dressings using ANTT which is a sterile way of dealing with wounds. We can also remove catheters and the cannulas patients have in their arms for the fluids to run through. There are many assessment charts that must be completed during the day and between the Qualified Nurses and Auxiliaries we ensure these are completed on time and correctly. Our patients are all female, surgical, not all have operations some may need to be in for medications, scans or early pregnancy problems and so we see a varied range of issues. We also work alongside the Physiotherapists & Occupational Therapists to try to regain our patients independence to enable them to go home which is very rewarding however, some patients are unable to return home and so we the need to work with the social workers to find a safer solution.

It is inevitable that we must also encounter some very sad times and this can be very difficult to deal with at first but it makes us very proud to be able to be part of our patient's final days and to care for them and their families as though they were our own.

Why I do my Job

The Trusts values are safe, effective and caring and to do our job properly it would be impossible not to include these 3 values, we must ensure that our patients are dealt with empathetically, with compassion and understanding and that we must maintain levels of privacy and dignity at all times. Caring for people is a an amazing job and we would encourage anybody to try if they think it's for them, its hard work and sometimes it seems as though we will never manage to get through our work but we try our best and the results are worth every single bit of effort put in! our team mates become our best mates and we wouldn't dream of doing anything else!

