



**Michelle
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**Surgical Ward
Manager**

What made you decide to come into nursing/midwifery?

I had always wanted to work with people and looked at doing social work, teaching and psychology. A friend gave me the application forms for nursing and after speaking to family and a few people in healthcare, I decided to do nursing as I felt that it would give me the opportunity to not only care for people but a greater scope for development as well as easily transferring into the other roles if I wanted later.

What does your role entail?

I am the Ward Sister for the Regional Plastic Surgery and Maxillofacial Unit. My role is varied and mainly is about ensuring patients have a safe and quality journey throughout their stay and sometimes on follow up care through our dressing clinic. I do this by managing and leading my team, ensuring they have the right skills and training to provide the best care for patients. Through working with a multidisciplinary team of Doctors, Nurses, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapists, Dietitians, Speech Therapists, Social Workers.

What does a typical day look like?

I start my day with a few managerial tasks including a staffing update with all the other Sisters in surgery. This allows us to ensure safe as possible staffing for the day throughout the directorate. This is followed by safety brief for the ward followed by a handover of the patients. I attend ward rounds alongside the medical staff and multidisciplinary team. I co-ordinate admissions and discharges of patients within the ward and with our patient flow team. I assist the nursing staff with any tasks required; delegating duties but a lot of my day is now taken up with managing staffing, admin duties and taking to relatives and patients.

What advice would you give someone coming into nursing?

Be open to change, be adaptable and be flexible. Healthcare, like all aspects of life changes frequently and those changes come from all levels of the organisation even our students. Take every learning opportunity you can and remember you will get out of your job (and your learning) what you put into it. Nursing as a career offers a lot of potential whether you want to stay as a nurse, be a specialist, a manager or later in your career become an educator or work in governance and audit or planning services. If you do decide to come into nursing remember, you may be looking after people at the most vulnerable times of their lives so be caring, compassionate and above all enjoy it.