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What made you decide to come into nursing/midwifery?

As cheesy as it sounds, I knew from a young age that I wanted a job that involved caring for others. After some work experience, I realised the vast opportunities available to nurses and set upon applying.

What does your role entail?

My role entails a lot; from doing tablets and IV medications, observations (blood pressure checks) to personal care. We sometimes spend a lot of time on the phone to relatives or handing patients over to the wards. I recall a colleague saying once that we are like glorified PA's, but I suppose it's all part of the patient's journey and good communication can lead to a more positive experience. My job in the Emergency Department (ED) means that we also get to do wound dressings, assist with bone manipulation and plastering and on occasions, look after some very sick patients who may need ventilated and getting cared for in ICU. Regardless of the task at hand, I suppose the actual role of the job on the daily is to care.

What does a typical day look like?

We get a handover from night staff at 07.30 and then start the day. Usually introducing ourselves to patients, doing their medications/treatments, personal care etc. Unfortunately, in ED, patients can be there for a prolonged period of time waiting to go to a ward so we try, as best we can, to make them comfortable. The nature of ED means that there's no such thing as a 'typical' day, as every day is different. It's one of the things that attracted me to a job in ED, never knowing what's coming through the door.

What advice would you give someone coming into nursing?

Go for it. Get work experience under your belt and if it gives you a buzz and sparks an interest then apply! I learnt the most when I was on placement, doing hands on work. In Lower Sixth I watched an 8-hour surgery in cardiac theatres and was blown away. I suppose a good piece of advice would be to keep going. Whether it's now in school with exams, personal statements or (if) you apply to nursing and are wondering 'what have I done'. Set an end goal and keep going. The career pathways and opportunities are endless. It's not always the easiest job in the world but it is hugely rewarding.

Anything else you would like to add?

Wash your hands and wear a mask!!