



# Anthony Scullion

Assistant Clinical  
Charge Nurse,  
Intensive Care Unit

## What does your job entail?

I work in Antrim Area Hospital Intensive Care Unit (ICU). I am currently working as an Assistant Clinical Charge Nurse. I have been an ICU Nurse for nearly ten years. As a team, ICU Nurses usually look after one critically ill patient each. As the Nurse in charge of the shift, I am responsible for the overall safety of all the patients and staff. I must have a good knowledge of their illness and what things we, as a team, are doing to make them better. I work closely with others such as Doctors, Pharmacists, Physios etc and co-ordinate the Nursing team to care for the patients. I make sure that we try to discharge patients who have got better, and we are always ready for emergencies or new patients. I try to get the best out of our team on my shift.

## How did you get into this line of work?

I came into nursing straight from school. I knew I wanted to work in a hospital and have some nurses in my family. When I was training, I saw that there were lots of very different areas for nurses. At first, I liked surgical nursing as the changes and improvements for patients were very obvious. Now, in ICU, I love the variety of things that we do for anyone who is critically ill. It can be very simple and fascinating at the same time.

## Outline your career to date

I qualified in 2006 and began working in the operating department of RVH Belfast, specifically the Recovery Ward. I moved to RVH ICU in 2013 and in late 2015 moved to Antrim Area ICU. I spent a few years working as an ICU Nurse and moved to being a Charge Nurse during the COVID Pandemic. ICUs across the country needed to grow so there was an opportunity to test myself. It has been an amazing time to be a nurse.

## Tell us about your qualifications and training

I qualified with a Diploma in Nursing from QUB in 2006. Much of the essential training needed to work in ICU is done while you work there. I have completed a short course in ICU Nursing through QUB. I am doing some further study through QUB again, continuous study of all types is a huge part of nursing.

## What qualities are required for your job – personal and professional?

This role requires good organisation, teamwork, and communication skills. Remaining calm and approachable in a busy and ever-changing environment is essential. The ability to cope with changing demands, often with no notice and to ensure that the whole team works well together; clear and professional communication with patients, families and others is very important. I have learned to be calm and respectful but assertive.

## What is the best advice you have ever received?

I don't remember specific pieces of advice, but some things have stuck with me. There is no 'big moment' or time to shine as such. Your big impact as a nurse will be made in your attention to the small details and personal touches. Treat everyone with respect. Smile and say hello.

## What do you like to do in your spare time?

I do 12-hour shifts, so I normally have four days off per week. I don't watch much TV unless a decent series or movie. I listen to a couple of podcasts. I run and cycle, and I tried paddle boarding this Summer. I spend most of my spare time with my wife and 6-year-old daughter. Weekdays off, when most people are at work, can be fairly relaxing and makes up for working some weekends and nights. I read, mostly science, just to know strange facts.

## Tell us an interesting fact about yourself

I have a twin brother and who seems to be my complete opposite and seven siblings in total.

## Who has inspired you most in your life?

My parents. My Dad has an amazing work ethic and has always shown resilience running his business or changing career paths. My Mum, who is not a nurse, seems to have been the nominated carer for her entire family over the years, she seems to be able to keep an eye on everyone and never complains.

## What advice would you give your 16-year-old self?

Personally, I'd advise 16-year-old me to play a musical instrument, at least properly. I would also say travel more.