



Helen McNeilly

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What does your job entail?

I work on the medical rota within the Emergency Department in Antrim Hospital. I see and treat patients who present to the Emergency Department with a wide range of injuries and illness.

How did you get into this line of work?

From a young age all I ever wanted to be was a nurse, I studied Health and Social care after school to enable me to gain a place to study nursing.

Outline your career to date

I qualified from QUB School of Nursing in September 2001. My first post was as a staff nurse in Musgrave Park Hospital in elective orthopaedics. In January 2003 I began working as a staff nurse within emergency care in Antrim Hospital. In 2005 I was successful in gaining a temporary Band 6 post as Assistant Clinical Sister in the Emergency Department. I returned to QUB in 2005 and studied for a certificate in applied fractures and trauma. In 2007 I was successful in obtaining a place at University of Ulster to complete my specialist practice degree in emergency care, for approximately one year after completing this course I worked in a dual role as Band 6 Assistant Clinical Sister/Band 7 Emergency Nurse Practitioner (ENP). In 2010 I was successful in gaining a permanent post as an ENP, I returned to QUB in 2012 and completed my post graduate certificate in non-medical prescribing, this enabled me to further develop my role as an autonomous practitioner.

In 2017 University of Ulster introduced the first master's in advanced practice course to run within Northern Ireland, I was lucky to be part of the first cohort of students to complete this course in Emergency care and since completion of this course I have been working as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner still within the Emergency Department at Antrim Hospital. I am an Advanced Life Support Instructor and a Trauma Intermediate Life Support Instructor and enjoy teaching and organising study events for nursing staff within the Emergency Department.

Tell us about your qualifications and training

I have a certificate in applied fracture and Trauma. BSc Hons specialist practice in emergency care. Postgrad Certificate in Non-Medical Prescribing. Master's in Advanced Practice in Emergency Care. Advanced Life Support instructor. I have a certificate in casting from the British Orthopaedic Association.

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

Working within emergency care I thrive working under a certain amount of pressure. I really enjoy the variety that my job brings, no two days are the same.
I actually really enjoy studying and work hard to try and maintain my professional development.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

Never stay in the same job longer than seven years, always look to either advance or change your role.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself

I am a big Manchester United fan; I've been lucky to see united play many times and meet quite a few players. My prize possession is my shirt that was signed by many players including David Beckham and Ryan Giggs.

Who has inspired you most in your life?

I am inspired by my brother, in 2004 he was involved in a motorcycle accident which resulted in an amputation of his right leg. Despite this he has continued to pursue his love of golf, and over past 4/5 years has campaigned widely for disabled golf, this resulted in Golf Ireland agreeing to facilitate a disabled golf team to compete in the European Championships and he was selected to captain this team, and team Ireland won in their first tournament.

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

Hard work does pay off and you can achieve your career goals!