



Sadie Campbell

Consultant
District Nurse

What does your job entail?

I have several main responsibilities in my job including supporting district nurses, looking after patients and families with complex needs in their own homes. I also support new quality improvement initiatives and research in district nursing to enrich the good work already going on. I also support nurses who need further teaching, learning and development to enhance their knowledge and skills in looking after patients living in the community.

How did you get into this line of work?

I applied to commence my nursing training after leaving school and, after qualifying, I had interviews for a permanent job and have not been out of work in 34 years.

Outline your career to date

I trained in the Mater Hospital in Belfast and after qualifying stayed there as a Staff Nurse in an acute surgical ward for three years. I then got promotion and moved to another trust where I have worked since within community nursing. During this time I was able to complete many qualifications part time including a degree in Professional Development in Nursing and a Master's Degree in Medical Law. There are many avenues to do further study and lifelong learning in nursing is encouraged. There are a great variety of courses depending on your interests and field of work and many inspirational patients, families and staff.

Tell us about your qualifications and training

I trained as a general nurse and then completed my degree in Professional Development in Nursing part-time, then a Master's Degree in Medical Law and I am a nurse prescriber which gives me autonomy for patients to receive prescriptions timely. I have also a diploma in Asthma and a Diploma in COPD as I like respiratory care and three other postgraduate diplomas. Nursing gives so much potential for learning and with new advances in health care and treatments to help patients always this keeps nursing leading on safe quality practices..

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

You need to work well in a team, communicating all the time with your colleagues, understand each other's roles, have respect and professionalism for all colleagues and support each other when times are difficult and busy. As a nurse you keep the patient at the heart and centre of everything you do and this keeps the focus and energy for this caring role paramount.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

Listen to patients and their families when they have new concerns.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to be outside in fresh air. I have a garden, a poly tunnel and a dog that keep me busy.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself

I am the first Consultant District Nurse appointed in Northern Ireland.

Who has inspired you most in your life?

My parents.

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

Speak up more for yourself and be more adventurous.