



Caroline Speedy

Clinical Service
Manager,
Respiratory and
Neurology

What does your job entail?

I manage the respiratory and neurology services across the Trust, which includes the respiratory wards in Antrim Hospital, Respiratory Consultants, the Community Respiratory Team across the Northern Trust, the MS Nursing Service, Parkinson's Nursing Service, Neurology Liaison Nurse, and consultants. I also take part in the site coordination rota on the Antrim site which involves being the site manager for the day overseeing the flow of patients throughout the hospital.

How did you get into this line of work?

I have worked in the NHS since 1989. Nursing is always something I wanted to do even as a child. When qualified, my aspiration was one day to become a ward sister. I have been fortunate to have opportunities to move beyond this.

Outline your career to date

I started as a student nurse in Belfast City Hospital in 1989 and qualified in 1992. I then worked in a nursing home for a few months before starting in the Ulster Hospital as a staff nurse in the newly developed Stroke Unit. I became a senior staff nurse two years later and in 2000 became a ward sister in a care of the elderly medical ward. I always had an interest in respiratory and had the opportunity to go to QUB to do the COPD course. After this I was seconded as a respiratory nurse in the Ulster Hospital. And when I came back to care of the elderly as well as my sister's post, I assisted the consultants with a nurse lead clinic each month for COPD patients. I then was seconded to Causeway Hospital to develop Pulmonary Rehabilitation Services for the Northern Board area. Respiratory nursing was developing at this time, and I secured a permanent post as the Community Respiratory Nurse for the Homefirst area. This was challenging as I was in a new post. The team soon developed, and I became the Respiratory Service Improvement Manager developing the team across the Trust. I then moved to become a Assistant Clinical Services Manager for respiratory and five years later the Clinical Services Manager.

Tell us about your qualifications and training

I trained in the Belfast City Hospital as a Registered General Nurse and then went on to do my degree part time. I have a BA Hons in Public Policy and Management. I have completed COPD course, asthma course, PR course. Non Medical Prescribing at Ulster University and recently Institute of Healthcare advisor's course.

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

Resilience, patience, I class myself as a people person and approachable, open, honest and passionate about my work. Work is busy and always working with competing demands, so it is important to be organised and manage time effectively.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

Always be open and honest.

Tell us an interesting fact about yourself

I enjoy helping on my family farm, looking after pigs and cows.

Who has inspired you most in your life?

My director when I was a ward sister

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

Always do what you feel is right.