P

**Case study**

Name: Mandy Burbank

Job title: Registered General Nurse

**What role/ profession are you in?**

I am a Registered General Nurse on a Day Treatment Unit which caters for all areas of General Surgery which can be provided as a day case. I chose this role because it became available at a time when I had major changes happening in my life and I had experience in surgery from a previous post early in my career. I’ve always enjoyed the surgical side of nursing and I specialised in that area after I qualified as a State Enrolled Nurse.

**What did your early career look like?**

There were 2 types of nurse when I first started my career- A State Registered Nurse who did 3 years training became a Staff Nurse and took charge of the ward and management side when the Ward Sister was not there. The other a State Enrolled Nurse (which I am) who did 2 years training and were more hands on with patient care. During my career hospitals have become busier and the types of roles on a ward different. As well as caring for the patients we have a number of Government targets to meet.

**How did you become a Registered Nurse?**

I enjoyed school most of the time, I then went on to do a pre- nursing course at college as I was too young to start my nurse training. I chose to do nursing as I had the opportunity to start my training without waiting for my exam results, I was also looking into going to catering college but I needed my exams for that. I must have made the right choice as I am in my 39th year in the profession.

**What is a typical day as a Registered Nurse?**

The day starts by admitting patients for day case surgery by checking personal information and a health questionnaire to make sure they are fit for surgery. I then do general observations on the patients and any irregularities found are fed back to the Doctor and Anaesthetist, who also see the patient. After that patients start going off to Theatre. Following their surgery I fetch them back from the recovery area to monitor them post operatively. This includes observations and wound checks. When patients meet the criteria for discharge I give them information about how to look after themselves at home whilst they recover and their wound heals.

**Do you have any words of encouragement for anyone thinking about a career in health and social care?**

Nursing can be a rewarding career but do not enter it lightly try doing some healthcare work before you commit to 3 years training and also to see if it’s what you want to do. If you find you like the role then it is a fulfilling career with lots of opportunity to expand your role if you wish but it is also a lot of hard work.