P

**Case study**

Name: Steve Szarvas

Job title: Nurse Endoscopist

**What did your early career in the NHS look like?**

Full-time working on the wards as a student nurse. Then a medical ward at LRI for 1 year then ITU for 6 years, which was a fascinating job with lots of excitement. Lots of shifts and putting other things in life on hold so that you can be available to work.

I’ve always liked fun and laughing and I feel that there are times in my career where this has been hugely important to help me and patients and colleagues get through some difficult situations.

**What was your career journey prior to training to be a nurse?**

I was a registered Nurse and worked on Intensive Care at the LRI. Then I left Nursing and worked selling medical equipment around the country – in hospitals. That was very different and challenging. Then I came back to Nursing and started in Endoscopy.

I liked school and was always fairly bright but I did not like the way school worked and so I struggled with some things sometimes. I really liked sport and messing about so I did not do well in my exams, but I managed to get enough ‘O’ levels to get me into Nursing College.  
I did have to study as an adult to progress and develop and even though it is still hard I did find the processes more rewarding and I do feel that I am a better person because I have gone through that.

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

I like the technical aspects of nursing, the machinery and equipment, and Endoscopy was a good fit. Then I realised that I would probably be as good as many of the doctors who I saw performing the procedures so I decided to push to become a Nurse Endoscopist.

It is a very rewarding role as I know that I can make a huge difference to finding health problems for people who aren’t feeling well. This makes me feel very good about what I can do to help them start to feel better.

I needed to have the qualifications to get into Nursing college (back in the 1980’s!) and then I needed to study at degree level to become an Endoscopist.

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

Busy! Doing ‘lists’ of patients who are attending for a camera examination of the stomach or the bowel. I have to have lots of conversations to make sure everyone knows what they are doing so it is all safe and also to help the patients through the procedure. I also have to teach and support others in order for them to be safe and effective in their jobs.

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

I would say that you have to know what the NHS really stands for. It is about fairness and equality and need. We help people regardless of who they are – without question. If you understand those things then I think that you will be satisfied with a job in the NHS.

I personally have met many remarkable people and seen some amazing things that I think I would not have seen if I had not done the jobs that I have done in the NHS. I have worked with some very special people who have changed my life for the better and this really is a wonderful thing. You can make friends for life in this job.

But if you think it will make you rich then maybe think about something else!