

Healthcare Support Worker Case Study

Healthcare Assistant and Assistant Practitioner questionnaire

Please tell us your name

Lilia Ciobanu

Tell us about your role, where you work and how long you have been in post

I work as a Theatre Nursing Assistant at Barts Health NHS Trust from 2014.

What qualifications and experience did you have prior to coming into the role?

Before joining Barts Health NHS Trust I worked as a Healthcare Support Worker in the ward at North Middlesex Hospital. I have an NVQ level 2 in Health and Social Care and Level 3 in Health and Safety.

Describe a typical working day

1. We start work at 07:30. I must check the board to see where I am assigned for the day and go to the designated Theatre to do a quick check.
2. At 07:40 we have Safety Huddle per Department and the Coordinator of the day will update us with the latest news and Theatres list changes.
3. Immediately after the meeting I will collect the first patient and bring them into theatre anaesthetic room according to health and safety procedures and policies.
4. After handing over the patient to the anaesthetic team I will go to the scrub team to help them with everything necessary for the surgery.
5. When the patient is wheeled in theatre I assist with positioning the patient for the surgery and surgical pre-wash.
6. During surgery I assist with:
 - Collect blood products and perform blood gas test
 - Supply the theatres with all consumables and equipment necessary
 - Perform circulatory duties (complete Surginet with the relevant data, assist the Surgical practitioner with everything necessary like consumables, instruments and equipment.)
 - Assist in the care, labelling and despatch of specimens for laboratory examinations.
 - Assist with delivering medication directly from the pharmacy.
 - Check with the Coordinator where the patient is sent after the surgery and bring the prepared bed making sure to inform every single team where the patient is going.
 - Bring the next patient in anaesthetic room.
7. After the surgery I make sure to clean and to maintain cleanliness my area of work by following always the infection control procedures and policies and check out the instruments used during the surgery.

Describe how you make a difference

When we are dealing with emergencies outside the theatres I always encounter the same problem which is the layout of the consumables, instruments and equipment. From my clinical role perspective as a theatre nursing assistant, it can be very chaotic and stressful during emergencies to promptly provide the surgical team with surgical items at their demand. The main challenge is the lack of familiarity and not always being able to locate these items in other departments. The potential for delays in the delivery of effective teamwork can contribute increased stressful environment that is not beneficial to the patient outcome. I started to point that out to my scrub colleagues that we need to standardize the trolleys in all areas, but we did not come to an agreement yet.

Currently I am responsible for the monthly audit report of the WHO checklist and Team Debrief Grid, and I am championing the Surginet training in the department. This has given me greater insight into our department's overall safety performance and the need to continuously improve our standards.

Tell us about the training, education and career opportunities you have

- **Did you complete any training to prepare for your role?**

Care Certificate, Statutory and Mandatory training.

- **Are you currently undertaking any education/training programmes?**

At the moment I am at the point to complete Advanced Apprenticeship in Perioperative Care and yet to complete training regarding Da Vinci robot.

Thinking about your team

- **Describe the support you are given**

I am fortunate to work in a multidisciplinary department which encompasses: Anaesthetic team, Surgical team, Perfusion team so any question I have is answered and even sometimes shown. We have audit days with different kind of training, teaching hour with lectures. I am receiving great support from my Manager and Nursing educator.

- **Do you mentor or support colleagues?**

As a Surginet champion I am training or helping my colleagues with Surginet issue. I train new staff. I support all teams whenever my help is needed, especially during emergency.

I am giving guidance and support and sharing my experience with my colleagues whenever necessary, especially the new starters.

At the moment I mentor a colleague which has started recently and I am really proud with his progress.

What are your aspirations for the future?

I want to enrol myself for Nursing Apprenticeship. So nursing is my next step.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your role?

By supporting every single team I have the opportunity to learn a lot and every single day brings something new especially now with robotics and cardiovascular surgeries.

Thank-you for your participation