

Safe & compassionate care,

every time

# Older people's nursing

Older people's nursing is part of our division of integrated medicine. It offers a wide range of opportunities to specialise, both in specific older people issues such as dementia but also in specialities associated with older adults including district nursing and palliative care. Working with us will give you the opportunity to learn the necessary skills of how to care for older people but also how to lead issues which relate to our patient group such as ageism or safeguarding.

At Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust we provide both acute and rehabilitation services for our older patients. Our Medicine for Older People (MFoP) wards are located at Wycombe and Stoke Mandeville and our elderly rehabilitation wards, Chartridge and Waterside, are located at Amersham Hospital.

## Medicine for Older People

We have two MFoP wards at our Trust; Ward 8 at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and Ward 5b at Wycombe Hospital. Ward 8 at Stoke Mandeville is a 21-bedded ward for acutely ill older people who will come to us straight from A&E or our clinical decisions unit (CDU) or medical assessment unit (MAU). It is based in the PFI wing and enjoys modern facilities.

Ward 5b at Wycombe Hospital is a 20-bedded sub-acute ward for frail older people who need ongoing assessment of their medical and nursing needs whilst discharge planning continues. Patients are transferred from Ward 8 at Stoke Mandeville and on occasion cardiology and stroke services.

Nurses working on our MFoP wards need to demonstrate a full range of clinical skills including male and female catheterisation, venepuncture and cannulation and nasogastric/PEG tube management.

You will also need to be vigilant in the assessment of pressure areas, continence and cognitive decline as these are key features of the older person's well being.

Discharge planning and support of families are important skills and there is a strong focus on working as a multi-disciplinary team, setting goals with the therapists and medics.



## Chartridge and Waterside

Our two rehabilitation wards enable patients to maintain or improve their level of independence with the aim of returning to their own homes on discharge.

Patients of varying degrees of ability are admitted. You will be part of a multi-disciplinary team working closely with occupational therapists, physiotherapists, social workers and medical staff. The therapists assess each patient and develop a treatment plan and goals which all members of the team work towards. Discharge planning is often very complex and requires committed multi-disciplinary input to ensure safe and timely discharge is achieved.

Our 24/7 nursing team is passionate about caring for the frail, elderly and vulnerable patients and helping them maximise their independence and get back to what, for them, is normal living. We work in small teams together sharing goals for safe and compassionate patient care.

## How we support our nurses

Regardless of where you are based we work hard to support newly qualified staff. You will receive a year-long preceptorship and will be encouraged to go on and gain mentorship experience. You will be encouraged to identify a clinical area in which you would like to become a specialist and the link nurse for that area. For example, this could be nutrition, continence or wound care.

We are committed to ward meetings and reflective clinical practice as a way of developing team skills. There is a strong focus on multidisciplinary working with staff gaining experience from internal and external agencies and you will be working alongside members of the British Geriatric Society who are recognised as experts in their areas, regularly contributing on issues relating to the older person.

Both in-house and external training is encouraged. All staff have an annual appraisal and all band 6 and 7 staff have monthly 1:1 meetings with the lead nurse. Our wards hold monthly team meetings to cascade corporate information and give the team the opportunity to ask questions and raise non-urgent issues. An open-door policy is fostered by all ward managers so staff are able to raise any issues or concerns at any time.

You will be expected to work all shift patterns and demonstrate a commitment to the Chief Nursing Officer's 6 Cs - care, compassion, courage, commitment, competence and communication - as you will be tested daily in all levels of ward activity and nursing care.

Both wards receive positive feedback from students on placement and newly qualified staff often return for their first RGN appointment.

We are an energetic team with a clear vision of where we want older people's services to go and a determination to be seen as national leaders in the way we deliver care.



**Be the future**