

District nursing video transcript

Emma Lea:

District nursing is extremely varied; we look after house-bound patients attached to GP practices. We look after most people over the age of eighteen but we do look after people under the age of eighteen.

Kate Owen:

I think that the public think that district nurses just go around drinking tea all day whereas indeed we do far more of an autonomous roll and I think there are misconceptions within other realms of nursing who thinks that community nursing is the easy option. I'd like to really dispel those myths and say that district nursing is an exciting career. It has lots of different career opportunities within the whole sphere of district nursing.

Ben Bowers:

The benefits of becoming a district nurse and the role just for things like the paying conditions, flexible working and career development, there are quite a few. From personal skills, you pick up the knowledge of running with a case load, choosing and prioritising who needs to be seen first, and also time management, a huge skill which is picked up in the community.

Emma Lea:

You can work your dedicated number of hours within the day depending on what fits in with the team leader really. So if you are doing your seven and a half hours and working with the team means some people can work earlier and some people can work later.

Kate Owen:

In order to lead the intravenous therapy team, myself and my team have gone off to do lots of different highly skilled nursing techniques. Again just delivering intravenous antibiotics and their therapies is very important; however we also need to be able to assess patients at a high level. In order to do this we have all done an advanced clinical assessment course which is at masters level which equips us really with the skills that we need to do our job properly and to make sure that our patients get a truly safe and effective service.

Ben Bowers:

There are many opportunities. A lot of the role is being independent and going and seeing patients on your own, tying into colleagues and getting support from the GP or other allied healthcare professionals. That really builds up your confidence that gives you a lot of skills of autonomous working.

Kate Owen:

District nursing is a very rewarding career. However it is hard work and you need a lot of determination and excellent communication skills to be able to assess your patient from top to toe.

Emma Lea:

District nursing to me is looking after people in their own homes, keeping them well and enabling them to stay in their own homes. It's a fulfilling and rewarding career enabling you to make a difference to the community and the healthcare in the community that you work in.