

Apprenticeships Case Study

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What prompted you to become an apprentice/apply for your apprenticeship?

I wanted to apply for the advanced clinical practice apprenticeship course as I am keen to increase my knowledge and to expand on the care I currently provide.

Tell us about your role, what does a typical day look like?

I am a Macmillan Community Specialist Palliative Care nurse and visit palliative patients and their loved ones to provide support with complex symptom control and psychological support.

I work closely with the GP's and community nurses to support them with symptom management by being accessible for joint visits and advice.

I also work closely with the palliative care hub and virtual ward who are based at the local hospice and support them in providing specialist advice enabling joint working.

We cover a 7-day week with the aim to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions. We also support families and patients when they need it most.

A typical day can be to assess complex symptoms, have future care planning discussions or to provide psychological support to patients and families going through the most difficult time of their life.

What is the best thing about your apprenticeship?

The best thing is learning new skills and knowledge to be able to provide a more in-depth assessment and support my colleagues in developing and improving palliative care service in Warrington.

This is going to improve care I can provide in the community and to try to avoid unnecessary hospital admissions.

An example of this would be being able to review a patient with a suspected chest infection. With my newly developed clinical examination skills I would undertake a full examination I would be able to respond in a timely manner and assess the patient as to whether they have a chest infection, pleural effusion or pulmonary oedema with my new skills and knowledge I would tailor a treatment plan to the patients' needs and liaise with the appropriate health professional. With this, the patient can receive timely treatment and care.

What would you say to others thinking about an apprenticeship?

I would explain what a fantastic opportunity it is to develop their own learning as well as improving patient care and achieving their goals.

Improving patient care results in job satisfaction. It is a great opportunity to educate others about your newly developed skills and knowledge resulting in increased confidence and quality of care and treatment of patients.

