

A Nurses Experience at



Glencarron Nursing Home is a 44 bed nursing home in the heart of south Armagh, This is a nurses experience at Glencarron Nursing home and gives you an insight to the career development and day to day experience.

Continuous professional development, training and education are very important within our sector Bringing new ideas and learning, at Glencarron I was given the opportunity to grow as a nurse.

Since working in the nursing home sector, the reality has been in stark contrast to my preconceived ideas about the area. I have been granted on-going opportunities to grow and expand my knowledge and clinical skills. I have attended many course days and hope to continue doing so in the near future. The sector places a large emphasis on continuing development and education.

Responsibility for a Registered General Nurse (RGN) working in a nursing home is much greater than that of a nurse within an acute hospital. Within the nursing home environment I must utilise my decision making skills on a daily basis.

There is no typical day when working with the elderly, however there is a structured approach to the day. My responsibilities include communication to other staff via handover, drug administration, attending to personal hygiene needs, wound care, and liaising with multi-disciplinary team members such as GPs, Public Health Nurses, physiotherapists and many more in the healthcare area.



Also dealing with families and adhering to nursing documentation policies are particularly important responsibilities. We get to know the residents in our care and tailor a care plan around their needs – it is not a box-ticking exercise, you get to know your residents and you build relationships that are very long-standing. The bond becomes very strong- almost like they are your second family. The

people we care for are amazing people with amazing legacies and a generation from which we can learn a lot.

I would stress the one 'qualification' any person needs to work in care of the elderly is the natural ability to work with your heart. It's all about caring. It's about appreciating that you are a huge part of each residents' day and a huge part of their life.

We make their day and let us not forget that we are working in their home so our mood, our attitude, our sense of caring, our communication skills all have a huge impact on each residents' day.

As a team we deal with emergency situations and develop excellent decision-making skills. We do not have the backup or support of a medical team in an emergency situation and cannot hand the problem over - we must take control and assume responsibility which is very motivating. Nurses working in the nursing home sector develop good interpersonal skills. They mentor, guide and teach staff on an on-going and daily basis. They encourage loyalty and good team-work.

To work as a nurse Glencarron you need to be proactive and think on your feet. This is where your management skills are put into place. Nursing homes are nurse-led. During your nursing career you need colleagues and managers who are generous with their time, expertise and practical advice. You get this within the nursing home sector as a manager is always available to you for guidance. In turn, you need to be willing to ask for and accept their wisdom and guidance and be realistic about your expectations. In time with the right support and training you are likely to exceed your own expectations,"

I personally have found my nursing employment within Glencarron nursing home immensely rewarding, and I hope this has given you a better insight as to what it's like and why it's a career path worth considering.