

BALJIT GILL - WARD SISTER

"I'm Baljit Gill I'm the ward sister on a women's health ward at the university college hospital. It's a very busy surgical ward with up to sixteen patients going to theatre every day. I'll come in at 7.30, take handover from the night staff. By about 9 o'clock we'll know exactly who's coming in, how many empty beds we'll have on the ward for the patients coming for theatre today. There's different types of operations from general gyny to breast patients having operations, to ladies who may have had problems with their early pregnancy. It's the ward patients that need us the most, because they're not independent, they're not ready to be at home. They need some tender loving care, they need nurses here. They want to feel that there's somebody there, just at the end of the buzzer, to answer their questions. On the ward you are there for them when they want you. Us as nurses on the ward are a key player in making sure the environment is clean and safe. This ward is brilliant. I'm on the thirteenth floor looking at London - I've got the London eye. It is designed with the patient in mind and if the patients got a good environment the nurses automatically get that good environment as well. Although I always knew I wanted to do nursing I didn't start my nursing career after my A levels. For a little while I was unemployed so I joined an agency. I worked in a supermarket. I worked at a famous crisp factory. I also did some agency work as a cleaner. All these experiences has helped me appreciate other roles within the NHS because the NHS has so many different job titles so many different careers. Life experience is so important to bring with you because some of that can only come from living a little bit."