



Sian Coombe

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Why did you become a Pharmacy Technician?

I come from a very “science-y” family. My mum is a fantastic nurse, and her commitment to helping others has always been inspiring. Medicines have always fascinated me - the way they work in the body and how much they can impact on health and quality of life really grabs my interest.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

Helping others! Knowing that I play a part in improving health outcomes for our community is hugely satisfying. Since becoming a Pharmacy Accuracy Checking Technician, I enjoy taking a small part of the workload off our very busy pharmacists. They really appreciate having a bit of extra time to spend up on the wards.

Why is your role important to your workplace and the wider healthcare system?

I like to think we keep the wheels turning on the day to day operations in the Pharmacy. Managing stock, processing and dispensing from charts, supplying stock to ward dispensaries, all impact on the running of the hospital and, inevitably the other hospital staff and patients. We are an important part of a much larger team.

What did you find particularly challenging or rewarding about working on the frontline of the health system during the COVID-19 lockdown?

Initially there was anxiety due to the unknowns around Covid-19. Was it all going to blow over quickly with everyone relatively unscathed, or was there going to be a large death toll? I'd say it was more of a mental challenge than a physical one.

Our work lives had to change during lockdown. We separated into two teams to make sure if one team went down, we had a back-up plan. The hospital needs pharmacy staff! It was a great feeling to know that we were among the small minority who were able to help by continuing to do what we do.

What does Pharmacy Technician Day mean to you?

I think more than anything its recognition of the work we do, and of the help and support that we provide to pharmacists and other hospital staff. It's so lovely to feel appreciated.



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