

Name:

Date:.....

The nurse



Julie is a nurse at the local hospital. She works on the General Medical Ward which takes patients with a range of complaints, including heart problems and breathing difficulties. Julie has worked on this ward for five years and enjoys her job. Julie trained for three years to become a nurse and now she has a degree in Nursing. One day she hopes to progress in her career to a Sister.

Julie works different shift patterns. Over Christmas, the hospital was particularly busy and

Julie had to work from 7.30 am to 8.30 pm. She only had two 30 minute breaks during this time.

This week, Julie begins work at 7.30 am and finishes at 3.30 pm. When she arrives on the ward, she attends a meeting with the night staff nurse. This is called a handover meeting. Julie is informed about the patients that she will care for during her shift.

Julie begins the medicine round at 8 am. Together with another nurse, Julie administers medicines and tablets to the patients who require them. Sometimes, Julie gives injections or changes patients' dressings. Julie checks that all patients have been washed or showered and that they have had their breakfast. Some patients may be 'Nil By Mouth' which means that they are not allowed any food. They may be awaiting an operation.

The doctors come on to the ward at 9 am. Julie goes with them on the ward round. They check on each patient and look at any test results or X-rays. The doctors give Julie instructions on the care of patients. Julie then enters this information into the patient's records on the ward computer.

At lunchtime, Julie takes the drugs trolley around the ward and administers medicines to those who require them. The patients have their lunch. Those who are able, come to the dining table to eat.

At 2 pm Julie and the other nurses take the patients' blood pressure, temperature and checks their pulse. They record the information on the patients' charts.

At 3.30 pm Julie is ready to go home. She has been on her feet all day. Before she goes off duty, she updates the afternoon nurse about the patients she is handing over and any jobs that need doing.

Read the passage and answer these questions.

How long is the training to become a nurse?

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What hours does a nurse work?

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List some of the duties that the nurse is required to do.

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Why do you think it is important to write down any instructions from the doctors?

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What is the meeting called that Julie attends when she arrives on the ward?

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How many breaks does Julie have when she works 7.30 am - 8.30 pm?

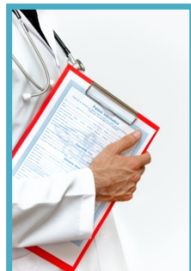
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What are the health checks Julie carries out at 2 pm?

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How long has Julie worked on the General Medical Ward?

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Use your dictionary or research skills to find the meanings of key words and phrases from the passage.

Key word/phrase	Meaning/definition
handover	
patients	
Sister	
ward	
medicine	
injection	
dressings	
blood pressure (BP)	
shift work	
temperature	
pulse	
X-ray	
drugs trolley	
chart	
Nil By Mouth (NBM)	
off duty	