

A Day in the Life of... Specialist Pharmacist (Clinical Pharmacy Team)

“I have never been happier to work as a clinical pharmacist until I joined the LCH Clinical Pharmacy Team.

“The privilege to spend time with the patients in their own environment where they are most comfortable to share their concerns with you 1-1 is very fulfilling. The changes you can make to their medications and by doing so their quality of life is immensely rewarding.

“I started working in Home Ward Frailty Team in 2023 and then our service expanded and now I cover Respiratory and Falls patients as well. There is immense scope of learning and having MDT with consultants and other healthcare professionals enriches your knowledge on a daily basis.

“I like that each day is unpredictable, and we are quite flexible in terms of prioritising and covering all the services.

“I cover Respiratory MDT twice a week and Home Ward Frailty MDT every day. I provide the pharmaceutical input and medicines management advice and do home visits for patients where needed. The pharmacy input is very much valued by consultants, matrons and other healthcare professionals in our team.

“Patients and their families are always full of gratitude and thank us profoundly for listening to them and making their medications more manageable for administration. This may include suggesting alternative medications to minimise side effects or changing formulation if the patient is struggling to swallow or doesn't like the taste of the medication thereby increasing adherence, helping them with different aids to increase compliance or reviewing polypharmacy.

“We have good networking and communications with Community Pharmacies, hospital pharmacies, charities, care homes and patient's families to ensure that the right medication is delivered to the patient promptly thereby facilitating optimum treatment at the earliest opportunity.

“I am looking forward to starting my prescribing course in September 2024 as prescribing medications is an integral part of the MDT review and pharmacists contribute immensely to it as they have the extensive knowledge in medicines. Other healthcare professionals rely heavily on pharmacists for this expertise.

“We are also in the process of updating our good practice guidelines incorporating all the varied services we provide under one umbrella. We have recently finalised *Clinical Pharmacy Structured Medication Review* template and have increased our visibility on SystemOne, helping other healthcare professionals to access our input easily.”