

## Theatre Services

### A Day in the Life ... Pre-operative Assessment Clinic/ Day Surgery Unit

06.00 Alarm clock sets off to Radio 2's Sarah Kennedy chatting away to me about her beloved pussy. Up and at 'em..... shower, cup of tea, put products on hair, apply mascara and lippy and off I go.

07.00 Change into pyjamas (scrubs) stroll to main theatres to get the keys to unlock the Day Surgery Unit, quick chat to the night staff, let them know the days weather forecast (in case of iced cars).

07.30 Girls arrive for work all changed into PJ's, we discuss how we all feel, we could have our own 'grumpy' programme on BBC2 in the mornings!! CD's (drugs not music) checked, monitors all checked ready for the onslaught of nervous patients all hoping to be first on the list.

I slip off to the little office to prepare the days notes for pre-assessment (poac to those in the know).

08.15 First patient in and all routine observations checked as per protocol, and the patient is suitable for surgery and care in the day surgery unit, more info given about fasting, what not to bring to the unit i.e. money and valuables although some still like to bring amazing amounts of 'swag' with them!

I like to give my patients as much information about their day out in the day surgery unit and how they are going to feel and what to expect post-operatively.

Amazingly there are a lot of people and work places who think if you are having a procedure in day surgery then you will be suitable to carry on as normal the day after, even after hernia repairs or lap chole's etc.

12.15 hurray lunch – 30 minutes – rush to toilet, amazing how big a nurses bladder is! Brought a tin of baked beans, hope I don't have to stay late tonight.

12.45 Phone call- next patient stuck in traffic so I go to the ward to relieve a colleague for lunch, this means there will be a gathering of patients if there any more delays ( I hope the beans don't work to quickly).

14.30 Getting thirsty (must be the beans), getting very hot (must be my age)

Next patient very anxious about anaesthetics, too many horror stories making the headlines again. Time taken to talk through modern day general anaesthetics with her and when assessment is over the patient is actually looking forward to a drug induced sleep. Good job on my behalf even if I say so myself.

15.30 The last patient has gone, all prepared for her approaching surgery; went home smiling and laughing at my spiel. I don't mind as long as they are happy with our service in day surgery.

Pack-up, sort notes and take them back to one of our receptionists, change back into 'normal' clothes and head for 'Betty' my trusty car. Back tomorrow 12-8pm shift working on the ward in day surgery, someone else will be pre-assessing the patients and I will hopefully be nursing some of patients that I have pre-assessed.

I actually do love my job

Tina xxx