

NLH'S Lorrie Callaghan, RN, talks about her role working on the Med/Surg floor and the skills which help her on a daily basis.

Transcript:

So as a nurse on the med-surg floor, I consider myself to be an advocate for the patient. It's My job, to make sure that the patient has what they need while they're here, that we're preparing for what they need when they go home. But also that we can send our patients home safely and in a better condition than when they came in. Qualities that helped me get through my job on a daily basis are first and foremost, communication communication with the providers, with our physical therapists, pharmacists, anyone involved in the care of a patient. Secondly, you need to have a good set of critical thinking skills. We are dealing with patients that come in with acute issues, and I need to be able to recognize if someone's getting worse and we need to intervene. But the third set is definitely a desire to provide quality care and a passion for quality care, a passion for the patient to make sure that it's done the right way every time. As a new nurse you come in and the opportunities to have are quite immense. If you start in med-surg, there's no reason you couldn't go to specialty services and learn oncology or go to urology and work with urology or go into the PACU and work in PACU as a pre-op nurse or a post-op nurse, or even going into the emergency room. The support for education and advancement is tremendous here as well. So, To be able to come to work and know that if I have an educational need, or if I'm looking for something specific in my own career, my nursing director will help me find that and help me achieve that.