

Interview a Health Professional:

1. Joann Millsap
2. Registered Nurse, currently works at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital.
3. Has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Bachelor's degree in Nursing.

What inspired her to get into the field of nursing?

Job security, wanted a secure way of income, she wanted to help people with their disease process.

What was her path to get the job?

She had a degree in psychology first, realized that there was a lack of job prospects without a masters degree, then applied to nursing school, got in with her experience as a CNA, after nursing school, wanted to be a resource nurse because of the flexibility in work hours all while still getting a decent pay.

Basic roles/responsibilities of the job

Medication administration and documentation, care for patients in all aspects of their needed care.

Most rewarding aspect of the job?

The flexible hours and feeling like she's making a difference in the patient's lives.

Most surprising aspect of her career?

The way that healthcare has become so overwhelming because of the lack of staff in the force. The patient ratio is so high and that it is allowed to happen that way.

What is the most challenging aspect of the career?

Difficult patients, juggling at least 8 patients a day, high acuity of patients (the sickness does not match up with their position on the floor they are on, should be in the ICU), lack of staff.

Advice?

Keep a positive attitude, take care of yourself, it is overwhelming, but you can do it. Don't let the job get the best of you, have down time, spend time with your family, and know what you are getting into.

What have I learned?

I have learned that getting into the medical field is going to be tough and challenging, but focusing on my studies and being committed, I will have a good idea of what my future will look like!

Joann did not want to provide a picture of herself

