



# Tamara Byrne

## Band 8a Pharmacist

### **What does your job entail?**

I work as a clinical pharmacist in Paediatrics & Neonatology where I ensure all medications prescribed for patients are appropriate and safe. I ensure patients/carers receive tailored and reliable information about their medicines. Across paediatrics, neonatal and maternity I am involved in the development of Trust guidelines, procedures and policies in relation to medications. My job involves working closely with other members of the multi-disciplinary team and provide information and recommendations on medication use.

### **How did you get into this line of work?**

I was always interested in a job in healthcare and while at school I was fortunate enough to get the chance to do work placement in a community pharmacy. I loved the interaction with patients and the fact that pharmacists are scientists and clinicians. Following my placement I decided that pharmacy was the career path I wanted to choose.

### **Outline your career to date?**

After registering as a pharmacist I worked as a locum pharmacist in the community setting for 18 months and following this I then commenced a post as a rotational band 6 pharmacist in Altnagelvin. This post involved rotating across the 4 main hospital areas; Patient services, Clinical Pharmacy, Technical Services and Medicines Information. This rotational post allowed me to get knowledge and experience working in these core areas from being involved in supply of medications to all hospital areas, to making chemotherapy, to being directly involved in patient care on hospital wards and answering medication related queries.

Once I rotated through the 4 hospital areas and completed my foundation programme training, I then applied for a post as a Medicines Management Pharmacist. During my time in this post I covered the Trust's medicines information service and worked on the paediatric ward and then moved to the acute medical unit.

I then applied for the job as the Lead pharmacist for Women and Children's after completion of my postgraduate diploma and receiving my independent prescribing qualification.

## Tell us about your qualifications and training?

I studied pharmacy at Queen's University Belfast which is a 4 year MPharm degree. Following completion of my degree I then completed a pre-registration year (now known as a foundation year) and following passing my pre-registration exam, was then registered as a pharmacist.

Once I started working in Altnagelvin I undertook additional training and post graduate degrees.

- Hospital Foundation Programme
- Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Pharmacy Practice
- Pharmacist Independent Prescribing Qualification
- MSc in Advanced Pharmacy Practice

## What qualities do you feel are required for your job – personal and professional?

Good Communication skills- required to translate technical medical information to patients.

We often work in busy environments and must be organised, logical, be able to manage multiple tasks, and remain calm under pressure.

Have a good eye for detail and be thorough and accurate in what we do.

We work in teams and are involved in education and training others, so good people skills are essential.

## What is the best advice you have ever received?

Don't be afraid to ask questions, you will never know the answer if you don't ask the question.

## A little bit about me

I enjoy sport and music. I play netball, do Irish dancing and play the fiddle. I love musicals, concerts and live theatre and try to attend as many live productions as possible.

## What advice would you give your 16-year-old self?

Have belief in yourself and don't compare yourself to others. Everyone has their own path in life and everyone's path has different turns and obstacles.

