



Careers In Cardiothoracic Surgery

A 3D anatomical model of a human heart, rendered in a reddish-pink color, is the central focus of the lower half of the page. The heart is shown from a slightly elevated, front-right perspective, with its major vessels and coronary arteries visible. The background is a dark, reddish-brown gradient with faint, glowing geometric patterns and lines, suggesting a medical or technological environment. The title text 'Careers In Cardiothoracic Surgery' is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif font across the left and center of the image.



The **Heart Centre** at UHNM is a nationally recognised centre of excellence that offers **pioneering treatment** to the people of North Staffordshire and beyond and whose services have won a number of **national awards** over recent years.

Cardiothoracic Surgery is a key component of the Heart Centre and consists of a dedicated ward and two **critical care pods**. Nurses who work within cardiothoracic surgery have the opportunity to become multi-skilled through caring for acutely patients that have undergone **extensive lifesaving surgery**. This area equips nurses with skills which can only be gained in this area, for example, **chest opening skills**.

Cardiothoracic surgery nurses work within a large **multidisciplinary team** to ensure the best outcomes for patients and are supported in practice by a dedicated **Practice Development Team** in the critical care pods to ensure all nurses receive adequate support and guidance.

The MDT teams within cardiothoracic surgery are dedicated to developing all staff and offer a **robust preceptorship** package and **bespoke training**.

Both **registered nurses and students** will receive a warm welcome and we look forward to contributing towards your **professional development**.



Ward 223



Location: **Main Building**

Contact Number: **01782
675223/676223**

Shift Times: **Long Day 07:30-
20:15, Night 19:30-08:15**

Ward Manager: **Amy Hobbs**

Deputy Ward Manager:
Rachel Stuttard

Senior Nurse for Quality: **Lily
Than & Laura Newbon**

Matron : **Angela Huscroft and
Joanne Hallett**

Cardiothoracic Ward

Ward 223 is a 32 bedded ward that cares for patients that have had elective/emergency cardiothoracic surgery and major trauma patients who have stepped down from critical care but still require extensive monitoring. There are 8 level one beds offering nurses the ability to develop their acute care skills caring for acutely unwell patients.

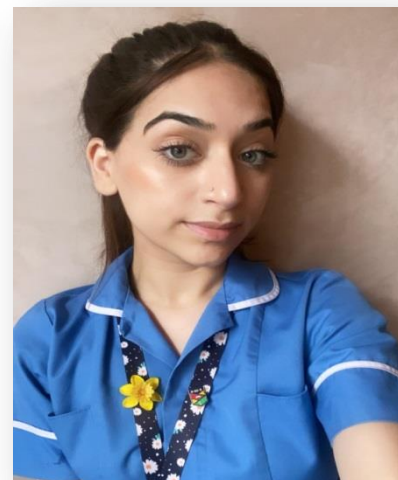
A robust preceptorship package is available whereby staff new to the area are given the opportunity to accompany patients to theatre and observe cardiothoracic procedures.

Specialist learning opportunities include:

- IV therapy and fluid management
- Management of CVP lines
- Telemetry
- Monitoring and care of chest drains including digital drainage systems and flutter bags
- Invasive pain control systems including PVBs and SABs
- Complex discharge planning
- Negative pressure wound care

Registered nurses who join the team will develop their clinical skills in addition to leadership and management skills. The ward 223 team consists of dedicated advanced nurse practitioners, band 4 assistant practitioners and a number of highly skilled senior clinical nurses.

Cardiothoracic Critical Care



Location: **Lower Ground 2-
Main Building**

Contact Number: **01782
675501**

Shift Times: **Variable and can
be negotiated with the senior
team**

Ward Manager: **Caroline Dean**

Practice Development Nurse :
**Hayley Armstrong & Rachel
Darby**

Matron : **Angela Huscroft and
Joanne Hallett**

Critical Care Pod 1 & 2

Cardiothoracic Critical Care Unit consists of two 8 bedded pods, which deliver care to level two and three patients. The unit cares for patients who have had extensive elective surgery or emergency cardiac surgery and require extensive monitoring. Typical procedures include coronary artery bypass grafts (CABG), minimally invasive procedures including MIDCAB, heart valve surgery and chest trauma procedures including rib fixation.

The unit is also a regional thoracic centre where minimally invasive keyhole thoracic surgery is carried out, including lobectomies, segmentectomies and wedge resections and extensive invasive surgery including pneumonectomies.

A dedicated Practice Development Team help to support student nurses and registered nurses develop their competencies and bespoke training sessions are often arranged for staff.

Specialist learning opportunities include:

Inotrope therapy

- CVVHDF
- Invasive and Non invasive respiratory support
- Intra-aortic balloon pump support
- ANACONDA sedation

The unit works with a large multidisciplinary team which include cardiothoracic consultants, highly trained specialised pharmacists and physiotherapists. Both students and registered nurses who join the team will receive a warm welcome and support from all of our staff

Career Development

In addition to a **corporate induction** and preceptorship package, the cardiothoracic department at UHNM offers **extensive development** and training opportunities, which ensure that our staff are highly skilled and able to provide optimal patient care. **Rotation opportunities** between our critical care pods and our cardiothoracic ward are available to ensure **staff become multi skilled**. Our newly qualified nurses follow the **development pathway** below:



Once you complete the **required national competencies** there are opportunities for **further development** depending on which career pathway you choose. The Trust **Organisational Development** programmes enable staff to become **effective leaders**, whilst there are also opportunities to study leadership programmes at Higher Education Institutes at both **BSc or MSc level**.

UHNM works closely with our partnership Universities- **Keele and Staffordshire**- and numerous **courses and individual modules** are available which will enhance your **practice and development**

Staff Profile

I started my nursing career in March 2000 when I got my first job in cardiothoracic surgery as a newly qualified staff nurse. I took part in a rotational programme working between the ward, high dependency and critical care.

I developed new skills quickly and enrolled on a mentorship course to enable me to mentor students. I gained promotion to a senior nurse within 2 years due to the excellent preceptorship programme within cardiothoracics. I have also completed many of the Organisational Development leadership courses that are on offer for staff.

In September 2014 I gained further promotion to deputy ward sister exposing me to managerial skills. I enrolled on the national NHS Leadership programme in 2016 which was a 6 month course and extremely beneficial to my role. In 2018 I became ward manager. There are so many development opportunities in cardiothoracic surgery and I encourage all my ward staff to take advantage of the opportunities on offer and it is so satisfying to see them progress and develop into multi skilled nurses

Amy Hobbs

Ward 223 Sister



We love our values



Staff Profile

Hello my name is Lily. I am currently working as a Senior Staff Nurse for Quality on Ward 223 Cardiothoracic Unit.

I came to the UK and studied for a diploma in nursing. I qualified in February 2005 and have been working with the cardiothoracic team ever since. During this time I have been able to develop by completing my mentorship (practice assessor), degree in nursing studies and high dependency care course.

I enjoy my role in quality and education. I support students and newly qualified staff with their learning on the ward as well as supporting the team with individual learning needs. I am also actively involved in the ward quality agenda to continuously improve patient care. The quality nurse role is quite unique and is a perfect platform for anyone wanting a career in nurse education.

Our team is dynamic, proactive and friendly and we would like for you to experience it for yourself.



Lily Than

Quality Nurse



Staff Profile

I qualified in 2015 and have worked in cardiothoracic surgery ever since. The team here have been so friendly and supportive and the preceptorship package I had when I first qualified was fantastic.

I have had the opportunity to do rotations to critical care, which enhanced my development and enabled me to see a lot of complex procedures and surgeries.

The cardiothoracic team are very skilled and we are used to looking after acutely unwell patients. I have received a lot of professional development and recently became a senior staff nurse.

We have a dynamic team and as a senior member of staff, I always ensure I support students, junior nurses and all members of the team.



Jessica Marsh

Senior Staff Nurse



Staff Profile

I qualified in 2000 having completed my training at Chester University. Cardiothoracic appealed to be because of the rotation between critical care and the ward.

Throughout my time in cardiothoracic I have been given so many opportunities to develop my skills and knowledge. I completed an enhanced critical care practice course in 2003 and then completed my degree in specialised practice in 2007.

I have always had an interest in teaching and supporting students so I completed the NMC Practice Teacher course in 2015 and this enabled me to take a post as a practice development nurse. In 2018 I also completed the Leadership and Management for Healthcare Professionals MSc module.

In my practice development nurse role I am responsible for teaching, assessing and developing new nurses to the area and also ensuring ongoing development for established nurses



Hayley Armstrong

Practice Development Nurse



Staff Profile

I started my career in cardiothoracic surgery in 2014, having arrived from Spain. Cardiothoracic surgery sounded very interesting which is why I chose to go there.

When I arrived my English was quite poor and coming to England and working on cardiothoracic was the most difficult thing I have done in my life. However, I soon settled and became more confident and competent.

I took a career break in 2016 and went back to Spain but I soon came back to England and the cardiothoracic team. Upon my return back to England I enrolled on the post graduate certificate of critical care at Keele University, which I completed in 2019. I have since become a senior staff nurse and can say that the team I work with are so friendly, kind and supportive and helped me so much when I struggled at the start. Cardiothoracic surgery is very interesting and there is so much development for staff.



Josep Ortiz

Senior Staff Nurse



Staff Profile

I recently qualified and secured my first job in cardiothoracic critical care. The thought of coming into cardiothoracic critical care as a newly qualified was both terrifying and exciting. When I started I was anxious that people would think that I would know everything but that wasn't the case; the team appreciated that I was a beginner and their support has been phenomenal.

The 6 week supernumerary period also helps you to become familiar with the environment and the area of work that you are going to be specialised in. It also helps you to identify if you need help or extra support. For me personally, it allowed me to become more confident with my surroundings and give me an extra confidence boost.

Having a PDN team has been very useful as they provide us with teaching and are able to work with us to ensure we learn on the job. I am really excited about my future in cardiothoracic surgery as there is so much development on offer and I definitely made the right choice joining the team. My advice for any new starters would be to consider a career in cardiothoracic surgery as you will receive excellent, bespoke support



Zainum Rahim

Staff Nurse





Wellbeing at UHNM

UHNM places great emphasis on the **wellbeing** of our staff and offers a comprehensive number of **wellbeing initiatives** to ensure our staff receive **support** should they need it.

Services on offer include:

- Emotional First Aid
- Stress management courses
- Emotional wellbeing educational programme
- Access to staff physiotherapy service
- Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training
- Yoga
- Gym membership corporate discounts

UHNM staff can also access **Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)** support and counselling from certified trainers. The **emotional, physical and psychological wellbeing** of our staff is of utmost importance and we work hard at UHNM to develop a just and learning culture where our staff feel supported and included.





Developing yourself to be the best leader

In addition to the career development in **cardiothoracic surgery**, the **Organisational Development** team at UHNM offer a number of opportunities to ensure our staff are able to reach their full potential. The programmes on offer for all staff include:

- **Coaching**
- **Connects Leadership, Development & Improvement programme (Silver, Gold & Platinum Awards)**
- **Leadership Development courses**
- **Leaders Network**

The **Connects** programme is available to all staff with the choice of either a **Silver, Gold or Platinum** award depending on your role. Topics include **coaching, quality improvement, courageous conversations, self-awareness & emotional intelligence** and **change management**.

The local **STP** also run a **BAME Leadership Programme**, which ensures that our BAME staff develop leadership in their current roles and also looks to **enhance skills** which will support career progression.

Staff are also encouraged to attend our **Gateway to Management** and **Gateway to Leadership** programmes.

Developing staff and supporting them to **achieve their potential** is important to us at UHNM. The cardiothoracic surgery department supports its staff with courses which **enhance clinical skills** and competencies whilst our Organisational Development courses ensure that our staff become inclusive leaders who embrace **Trust values**.