



IT Skills for..... Nurses



Angie Peplow is a General Registered Nurse at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals. In this interview, she describes how getting IT qualified as part of the NHS IT Skills Pathway has assisted her with her day to day work.

How do your duties involve the use of IT skills?

I use email and get patient results from a computer system that we use in the hospital.

What did you already know about IT before taking the NHS ELITE course?

I had very basic IT skills, I could manage to login to my PC and open emails but that was about all.

Do you use IT skills regularly?

My job doesn't require me to use IT very often so I don't use it everyday.

How did you hear about NHS IT Skills Pathway?

A colleague told me about the training.

Tell us how you went about learning NHS ELITE?

I started NHS ELITE to gain more confidence using a PC at work and the trainer at the centre helped me through the training.

"I liked making progress each week on the course and I enjoyed it as well."

What was the experience like?

I liked making progress each week on the course and I enjoyed it as well. I found that I would sometimes forget what I'd done in between sessions so would have to revisit topics before moving on though the course.

Now that you've taken the course, how does it help you?

I have gained much more confidence using a PC for my work duties.

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For more information about the NHS IT Skills Pathway, please visit our website at:

<http://www.cfh.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/icd/itskills/pathway>

Alternatively you can email us at:

it.skills@nhs.net

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Are there any specific examples of how skills you learned help you in your duties?

I can now login to my PC, open and respond to emails a lot quicker than before.

"I don't have to ask other colleagues for assistance as much as I used to which then saves them time too."

How much time do you think you save per week/month due to taking the learning?

I have saved time as I am much more confident and quicker at accessing things. Also, I don't have to ask other colleagues for assistance as much as I used to which then saves them time too.

How does what you've learned directly/indirectly help with patient care?

Now I can access patient records a lot quicker and input using the keyboard more efficiently and accurately, I find that I spend less time at the PC which gives me more time to look after the patients.

What would be your message about the NHS IT Skills Pathway to other staff across the NHS?

The course is worth doing and I would definitely recommend it to other colleagues .

What are the next steps for you in terms of IT learning?

I want to continue learning new IT skills as well as remember the ones I have learnt so far. Now I am more confident logging on and accessing emails, I would like to gain more word processing skills using the ELITE+ topic.

DID YOU KNOW?

NHS E-learning IT Essentials (NHS ELITE) is a learning and assessment tool covering the essential IT skills that are required for most NHS staff. In particular, it covers the IT skills that are required for the use of computer based health information systems, such as how to use a mouse and a keyboard but also covers other skills like using Windows, working with files and applications and how to operate email and the internet. Find out more about NHS ELITE by visiting <http://www.cfh.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/icd/itskills/eits>

The NHS IT Skills Pathway covers the full range of competencies for users of IT, from basic through to advanced levels. It has been developed in partnership with the NHS to provide an officially recognised route of learning and certification for the whole workforce.

Its purpose is to encourage everyone working within the NHS to review their current IT skills and knowledge against the national standards, determine what their skill gaps are and then identify their future training requirements based on the products that are available.

For more information about the NHS IT Skills Pathway, please visit our website at:

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