

A Day in the Life of a Community Medical Engineer

Well it's fair to say no two days are the same, but we have tried to give you an idea of what a typical day could look like, who you may meet and the tasks you will do.

As a team we team cover all the Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust (LSCFT) sites, as well as some Lancashire Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (LTHTR) sites. Our patch is from Skelmersdale to Barrow in Furness and Colne to the West Coast so you will certainly have the opportunity to get out there and see different things and visit different places every day.

We look after equipment for many teams who all need our support and expertise to keep the show on the road and ensure our patient care is the best it can be, these include: District Nurses, Mental Health Inpatients Wards, Podiatry, Dentistry, Eating Disorders, Community Mental Health Teams, Audiology, Special Needs Schools etc so definitely lots of variety and problem solving to be done.

We start the day by checking for fault notifications on the database and the answer machine for messages. We are contacted through the database, by email and by phone to report problems. We have an excellent response time, action-ing jobs within 48hrs.

A typical day involves getting our test equipment and setting out in the van to complete planned preventative maintenance (PPM) and repairs. On occasions we attend as a team when undertaking larger volumes of PPMs.

Our first stop could be a District Nurses Team for a service visit; then off to a High Security Mental Health Ward to look at a reported fault; then, on the way back to the workshop, call and collect a broken device for disposal from a Health Centre (this could be a private Doctors surgery where LSCFT or LTHTR have a clinic). At every stage we ensure we capture records of the activity undertaken so our database can be updated to ensure everyone knows where things are up to.

We work on a wide range of medical devices from basic vital signs observation equipment to high risk life-saving equipment. Our database management is a point of pride – we aim to have the database as accurate and up to date as possible.

We have close working relationships with the teams we are responsible for. We attend internal departmental meetings as well as representing LTHTR at Medical Device Management meetings for LSCFT. We take an active role in discussions with clinical leads regarding medical devices.

Our team has a flexible working pattern – start and finish times fluctuate in response to jobs where the sites/staff are only accessible at specific times. We are a small, tight team who work closely to provide the best care and technical service across Lancashire and South Cumbria.