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# Gary Hill

**Garry Hill is Physiotherapy Assistant Practitioner**

My role is patient facing and rotational, so I get to work with a wide range of patients. These range from the long term chronically ill and those on the acute surgical wards and my role is to aid the rehabilitation and maintenance of these patients. I think a big part of my responsibility is to help the patients by giving them instruction and encouragement to empower them to take a positive role in their recovery and rehabilitation.

I have had a varied career, from industry to the civil service and found that I was unfulfilled. After spending time as a carer, I realised that I wanted to work within the NHS in a patient facing role. I really enjoy the possibility my role offers, especially being rotational. But the part I enjoy the most is the daily interaction with patients and members of the MDT.

Working at a specialist hospital, like RPH, it is very important to keep abreast of changes and developments in treatments and techniques. The training given helps me to deliver a better, safer service to my patients. It has allowed me to channel my passion for palliative care, gained from having cared for a terminally ill loved one, and have a role as Palliative Care link for my department. Additionally, I was asked to join the hospitals End of Life Steering Group which means that I can play a part in the development of our policies and practices.

I am proud to work at such a world-renowned hospital as RPH with such a great team around me. I always feel very happy and proud to see a long-term patient, such as a heart or lung transplant, be able to walk out of the hospital and begin a new life, in a small part because of the time and input I’ve put into their rehabilitation.

I would recommend the support worker role as it allows you a great grounding in the skills required to work in a patient facing role. If you feel that a career in your chosen speciality is for you, then there are opportunities to develop within the support worker role or to advance and even become a qualified AHP.

“Becoming a support worker has given me more job satisfaction than in any previous role I’ve held before. I feel happy that I have a career that will fulfil me now and until my retirement.”