



Lolly Trehern

Operating Department
Practitioner

Qualified: 2013

Left the profession: 2014

Returned to practice: 2020

AHP/HCPC Return to Practice

Where are they now?

Lolly was working as a Band 5 Operating Department Practitioner (ODP) before leaving to go on maternity leave and then be at home with her small child.

“When I decided to return to practice, I contacted my local hospital’s Professional Development Facilitator for Theatres. They were great and arranged for me to do a clinical placement as part of the 60 hours updating that I needed to do.

To begin with I did 2 days a week on a voluntary basis, over 3 months. Whilst I was doing this a Band 5 role came up at the Trust and following an interview, I was offered the job, starting as soon as I was back on the register!

Once I had finished my return to practice hours, I sent off my forms to the Health and Care Professions Council and was back on the register in about a week. It felt so good to be able to start in a permanent role straight away and as an extra bonus the Trust gave me a retrospective payment for the hours I had done whilst completing my updating.

I am now back in theatres as a band 5 scrub ODP. Returning is definitely something everyone should consider; it’s easier than you think it will be to do the hours and be on the register again.”

#iamreadytoreturn

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With staff retiring and difficulties recruiting, we looked at different ways to increase our workforce, including encouraging and supporting ODPs who want to return to practice (RtP). ODPs provide the basis of a flexible workforce within Theatres as they are trained to work in anaesthetics, scrub and recovery; returners then bring added life skills, maturity and experience which enhances the quality of patient care.

To mitigate fear which returners may feel, we organised a pre-placement visit to discuss their developmental needs and career aspirations. We aimed to provide a welcoming, supportive environment and tailored support, to help them to regain their confidence and competence. We also offered flexible working arrangements to assist them if required.

We have now supported two RtP ODPs, offering this as a Band 4 post, prior to them regaining their HCPC registration. I would encourage all organisations to promote & advertise for RtP AHPs, as they are an untapped resource and on a personal level, it is great to be able to support staff to return to a role which they worked hard for and to see them flourish.”

Andrew Hutchinson
Professional Development Facilitator for Theatres
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust

