



'I Am a Cardiovascular Technologist'

Alexandria Elienty Ang

“As a Cardiovascular Technologist (CVT), I work in the diagnostic lab where we run and conduct various tests as ordered by the doctors, with a core focus on electrocardiogram (ECG), Haemodynamic Measurements and Echocardiography. Our work is divided into two labs, the Invasive Cardiac Laboratory (ICL) and Non-Invasive Cardiac Laboratory (NCL). We are in charge of diagnostic procedures such as Echocardiography, Stress Physiology and Cardiac Monitoring, among others.

I have been working as a CVT for 8 years now. I was initially a critical care nurse, and moving from nursing care to diagnostics was a major change. The medical field is limitless, and there is so much to explore in this field of diagnostics. There is also always room for self-improvement and personal growth.

I enjoy my work here very much, it is mentally exhausting but fun, and it is a great learning experience. We dive in to see the inside of the heart and detect abnormalities. It is interesting when we get rare conditions, and then everyone gets excited.

To become a CVT, we need to first have adequate experience in either nursing, medical assistant or biomedical science. Then, we have to undergo a one-year Graduate Certificate programme at the IJN College, an on-the-job training stint.

Some of us also have specialised training in Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE), Electrophysiology and Vascular procedures. Mostly, we concentrate on haemodynamics during procedures and assist in special procedures as well.

The best thing about my job is the experience I gain. The cases we encounter and the procedures we carry out are also very interesting, and they make work very satisfying. We also keep up to date on the latest technologies and methods and are never behind in this field, and I feel that I am contributing and making a difference.



'I Am a Wound Care Nurse'

Haliza Hamzah



“A wound care nurse looks after wounds. We evaluate wounds, generate treatment plans, advise patients on wound management, and of course, clean, and dress wounds - everything about wounds is our responsibility.

A nurse wanting to specialise in wound care needs additional qualifications and training. I was one of four IJN nurses to participate in a Wound Care and Management course at Hospital Kuala Lumpur at the end of 2019. We enhanced our knowledge of modern dressing techniques and methods to help wounds heal faster, such as using laser therapy to improve blood circulation.

A wound care nurse obviously must have comprehensive knowledge of wounds, common treatment options and the skills to diagnose and assess to determine the right treatment and care options. Wounds can range from the smallest of cuts to heinous wounds that require complex care and treatment. We also have to watch out for infection.

Above all, we need to be compassionate and respectful when handling patients. We try to develop a rapport with them. In doing so, we can communicate with them better and they also feel comfortable with us. We also need to keep detailed records for each patient.

Typically, I would be dressing wounds for outpatients at the Emergency Department and the dressing clinic. I also do ward rounds where I oversee wound care for the patients and teach the ward nurse, patients and caregivers how to tend to wounds. It is also my duty to keep the doctors updated about the condition and progress of the patients under my care and inform them of problems that arise.

I have been with IJN for 20 years, starting as a staff nurse at the adult ICU in 2000, and I have found it to be the best training centre. My career path has progressed really well, and I have attended various courses and seminars, both locally and overseas, as well as IJN's executive development programme. In 2017, I was appointed as Mentor in the Adult ICU ward.

I am currently continuing to pursue my interest and enhance my skills as a Wound Care Nurse.

Working at IJN has allowed me to explore my potential, and it is very satisfactory. Patients are safe in the care of IJN, and the staff is able to grow in a healthy and conducive working environment.



'I Am a Dialysis Nurse'

Zuraini Mohd Yusof

“As a dialysis nurse, I am trained to provide care for patients with acute and chronic kidney problems.

Dialysis patients generally need to come in for treatment three times a week. Seeing them often, as their dialysis nurse, I build a strong rapport with my patients and their families to reach out to them and guide them on the importance of dietary and fluid restrictions.

Although we primarily work with dialysis patients, dialysis nurses are part of a larger speciality known as nephrology nursing. Therefore, we can handle patients with all kidney-related problems.

The responsibilities of a dialysis nurse are varied, and a wide skill set is necessary. We must have extensive knowledge

about kidney disease, dialysis treatments and complications, and technical skills combined with appropriate experience.

At IJN, we deal with patients who have cardiac diseases with complications such as hypotension, fluid overload and hypoglycaemia or chest pain during dialysis. We also need to keep the doctors updated on any problems with the patients and check for treatment updates. This calls for quick responses, and we work closely with Datuk Dr Ghazali Ahmad, our nephrologist, to manage such issues.

During this pandemic, we have also had to manage patients who tested COVID-19 positive.

All in all, it is indeed a very challenging job but very interesting and satisfying as well. It is certainly different from my previous responsibilities. My work in HDU Renal began in 2017, after a post-basic course in nephrology. Prior to this, I worked in various wards at IJN - including the first class and VIP wards - and have 18 years of experience in the CCU.

One of the most rewarding aspects of working in IJN is connecting with our patients on a very personal level. While we often meet them under very difficult circumstances as they face serious health challenges, we get to know our patients very quickly and have the opportunity to play an important role in their lives.

Working at IJN is the best decision I have made. I have dedicated my life to caring for the sick and have found it to be professionally and spiritually rewarding. IJN is also truly a company where you can nurture a career for many years.

After 22 years of helping patients and their families navigate heart problems and dialysis care, I believe that at the end of the day, no matter how challenging it is, I have impacted someone's life for the better.

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'I Am a Cardiac Angiographer'

Mohd Shafiq Maszalan



“At IJN, medical imaging is a unique field with medical sub-specialities that combine radiology, cardiology (both paediatric and adult) and thoracic and vascular matters. This makes working in IJN as a Cardiac Angiographer very challenging, interesting and satisfying.

The basic qualification required to work as a cardiac angiographer is a degree in Diagnostic Medical Imaging / Radiology. One must also undergo further training at the IJN College and acquire the Graduate Certificate in Cardiovascular & Thoracic Sciences.

As part of the hospital's Allied Health services, a cardiac angiographer's role at IJN is divided into diagnostic and interventional procedures.

IJN's wide range of diagnostic procedures encompasses CT Scans (particularly CT Angiograms), MRIs, Nuclear Medicine, Ultrasounds and Cardiac/Vascular Angiograms for both the catheterisation lab and the operating theatre. Our role is to provide good quality images for the cardiologists, surgeons and radiologists to treat and manage patients.

In interventional procedures, a cardiac angiographer is a key person. We operate the angiographic machine and contrast medium auto-injector. Our job is to capture good angiographic images and ensure all vessels are clearly

visualised so the vascular surgeon or cardiologist can implant devices such as a stent or prosthetic cardiac valves. We follow their directions, manage equipment, and use a contrast agent visible on X-ray. We help them locate the field of interest - vascular dissection or perforation; coronary lesion or stenosis; and abnormal cardiac valves.

Normally, before such interventional procedures, we set up the X-ray equipment, make sure all the angiographic systems are running smoothly, and prepare contrast media in the auto-injector. Together with the surgeon or cardiologist, we discuss the procedures and determine things such as patient location and orientation, working length area for the team, and other matters.

After the procedure, we have to ensure all images acquired are archived in the Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS).

I have been happily working as a cardiac angiographer with IJN for 13 years. As a frontier in the Cardiovascular and Thoracic fields, this institution has given me a lot of opportunities, especially in gaining new knowledge and learning new procedures. In these 13 years, many dedicated physicians, surgeons, superiors and seniors have taught me and helped me grow.

Another thing I am very happy about is the mutual respect we have for each other at IJN. Everyone clearly knows their roles, and we all respect each other's position, responsibilities, capabilities, and opinions. This makes it the ideal workplace.

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