

# WORK EXPERIENCE OVERVIEW: THEATRES

## Career profile

The IW NHS Trust main operating theatres cover general surgery, urology, orthopaedics trauma, breast, and gynaecology surgery.

The Day Surgery Unit covers surgery that is predominantly day case procedures but includes ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgery, ophthalmology, maxillofacial, general surgery, gynaecology, dermatology, and urology.

Our theatres are modern and well equipped with the latest surgical technology and can provide for laparoscopic surgery, i.e. keyhole surgery, when required.



## A day in the life

The operating theatre team is a multidisciplinary group centered entirely around patient care. Key roles include:

- Theatre Team: scrub practitioners, circulating practitioners, recovery practitioners
- Anaesthetic Team: anaesthetists, consultants, operating department practitioners, anaesthetic nurses
- Surgical Team: consultants, registrars, assistants
- Theatre Support: theatre support workers

These roles require a wide range of clinical skills, such as preparing specialist equipment and drugs, including anaesthetic machines, ventilators, vital signs monitors, intravenous equipment, and airway devices, all essential to ensuring patient safety during anaesthesia.

Team members support surgeons during complex and sometimes life-saving operations with expertise and a calm, professional manner. They coordinate patient care, maintain a safe and comfortable environment, assist the surgical team, identify potential hazards, and facilitate communication between surgical staff and patients' families.

Additionally, theatre professionals observe patients closely for signs of surgical complications or emergencies, monitor pain levels, and ensure patients are fit to return safely to the ward. Gaining experience in these roles offers valuable insight into patient advocacy, teamwork, and clinical excellence, making theatre work an excellent choice for meaningful, hands-on healthcare experience.

## Learning objective

This two-day experience introduces you to what a career in perioperative care involves, how it functions as part of a wider multidisciplinary team, the skills you need to do the job and how you can become a member of NHS theatres staff.

### Further reading

[Allied Health Careers](#)

[Theatre Etiquette](#)

[Operating Department | Health Careers](#)

[Theatre Support - Health Careers](#)

[The Health and Care Professions Council \(HCPC\) | \(hcpc-uk.org\)](#)

[Perioperative Care | NICE](#)