

Assisted Conception Unit Visiting Professional Case Study

I met with Penny in her final week of her 12 week placement to learn about her time here at Guys and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust within our ACU. Penny has found sharing an office with the doctors a refreshing experience as it has really helped improve her English language skills and made her feel like an integral part of the team. She has been shadowing the doctors and taking note of the differences between the English and Chinese healthcare system in detail. A typical day at the Zhenjiang hospital will consist of seeing over 40 patients per day, compared to 10 in the NHS. Noting the main differences being shorter wait times within the Unit in the UK and the number of people seen, Penny detailed the following, *"whilst I know I cannot change the system, I can change my outlook and approach to my patients. I can be a better doctor after this experience because I have seen how much compassion the doctors have here and are willing and able to answer any questions their patients have. Patients are very lucky here, as the doctors are excellent and care deeply."*

Penny also spoke about the need to ensure there is more privacy within her home hospital and she has realised how emotional the news that she is often delivering is as well as the results of scans etc but is often detached from this due to the amount of patients she has to see each day. *"I was moved at how caring the doctors are here as a lot of patients are upset when they come to the unit and the relationship between doctor and patient is excellent here. There is a more supportive environment here with the embryo transplantation surgery as partners are allowed into surgery and in China this does not happen, I would like to introduce this into my hospital and speak to my General Manager about this."*

Penny contacted me 8 weeks into her placement to ask if she could spend some time within our Gynaecology department as she wanted to observe the use of hysteroscopies during surgeries as Penny will be performing these abdominal surgeries moving forward as part of her role. I managed to arrange observations through the Gynaecology theatre lists which were weekly. This was very well received by Penny and greatly appreciated. Through speaking to some of her colleagues who are on placement at different hospitals Penny said that she believes this is the best placement as the teams have been so accommodating and she has had more exposure compared to her colleagues *"I would highly recommend this placement to my colleagues, the hospital is excellent and I think this is the biggest and best ACU in the UK with a good team, there is also a strong PGD area which we are looking to expand at my hospital in China. The nurses, doctors and consultants are all very polite and so are the patients."*

Finally Penny noted the support of the co-ordination of the programme *"The organisation of the programme was very well put together, in China we have lots of placements and every time I sent an email the response time was very quick. You connected with me and assisted with arranging with the gynaecology dept. Compared to my friends in Barts and the Royal Free and hospitals; you paid attention to me and implemented it. I feel so lucky to have been on placement at this hospital. It's an amazing country and an amazing experience."*

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