

Out of Hours General Practitioner (GP)

Adrian Lewis

Primary Care



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I primarily work overnight alongside two other GPs. My role involves a mixture of triage and seeing patients on a face to face basis in a primary care centre, residential homes, nursing homes, as well as in their own homes. Throughout my shift, I liaise closely with overnight district nurses, carers, and paramedics.

Working as an Out of Hours GP with a population of around 450,000 provides an opportunity to deal with an enormous variety of challenges and patients. These include patients who are acutely unwell, in palliative care – at the beginning and end of their journey, have mental health problems and patients who have social problems. These all provide diagnostic, therapeutic and management challenges. And it's this vast variety of clinical issues and challenges that makes the role so interesting and stimulating.

After graduating from the Welsh School of Pharmacy, I joined the NHS as a hospital pharmacist. My aspiration from a young age was to become a doctor, but I failed to obtain the required A level grades, so I pursued pharmacy instead. However, this aspiration persisted whilst working as a hospital pharmacist and in 1989, I returned to university to study medicine. My house jobs were in the Bristol Royal Infirmary and I then returned to East Glamorgan Hospital to join the GP Vocational Training Scheme. After completing my GP training I worked as both an in hours and out of hours GP locum, mainly in the Rhondda Cynon Taf area, but also as far afield as Chepstow, Monmouth, Evesham and Stratford upon Avon on weekends. Since 2007 I have worked on a full time basis for Cwm Taf.

I've worked for the NHS for almost 44 years now! It's like a second family and I have and still enjoy, every second working for the benefit of the patients I see and treat.



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