# Video transcript: Perioperative nursing interview

**SPEAKER:** Andrena, Senior Charge Nurse and Theatre Education Coordinator, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

**>>ANDRENA:** My name is Andrena Roberts. I am a senior charge nurse and I am a theatre education coordinator within [NHS] Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

**>>ANDRENA:** When I left school, I always wanted to be a nurse, so I applied to university, and I started my training when I was 21. It was a 3-year degree course, so when I qualified at 24, I started working in theatre full time as a junior band five nurse.

**>>ANDRENA:** I am triple trained in all of the 3 specialties within theatre, which are scrub nurse, anaesthetic nurse and recovery nurse. This makes up our perioperative team.

**>>ANDRENA:** As a scrub nurse, you assist a surgeon within theatre, and you work as a circulating nurse to help when surgery is taking place. As the anaesthetic nurse, you would remain in theatre during the operation to assist the anaesthetist with anything that they may require.

**>>ANDRENA:** At the end of the surgery, they would assist the anaesthetist to take the patient back to recovery and hand over to the recovery nurse. They are responsible for the patient postoperatively. They deal with airway management, pain management, and ensure that the patient is stable enough to go back to the ward.

**>>ANDRENA:** My favourite was being an anaesthetic nurse. You work very closely with anaesthetists. You work with a lot of elective surgery, which is planned surgery, and we also deal with a lot of emergencies. So, each day is very different with anaesthetics, and it can be very exciting.

**>>ANDRENA:** Nowadays, all of our staff are trained in 2 specialties, and this makes a much more flexible workforce within theatre. Once you have your nursing qualifications, you could apply to theatre.

**>>ANDRENA:** If you apply for theatre, you don't need any previous experience for theatre. Even if you have not had a placement within theatre, but you have a burning desire to work in theatre, then you can absolutely apply.

**>>ANDRENA:** You'd have a mentor until you feel competent, so you would never be left on your own, and it's very protected learning within theatre because it's such a specialist and unique area to work.

**>>ANDRENA:** I think the most important skills for working within theatre is excellent communication skills, working well as a team member, lots of teamwork, adaptable and organised.

**>>ANDRENA:** The thing in theatre, is things can change quite rapidly, so you have to be able to adapt to different situations. We all rely on each other. We all know which each other's job is and what we are doing.

**>>ANDRENA:** I smile at work because we can make such a difference to patients. When you see a patient who's completed their theatre journey, it's great to see that they've gone back to the ward and they're stable.