



# Martha Buckley

Healthcare assistant  
St. Luke's home

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- Good afternoon to all of you, my name is Martha Buckley, I have worked as a healthcare assistant in St Luke's home for nearly 12 years.
  - I have plenty of experience as a healthcare assistant which I tend to brief everyone on today with some points.
  - I am at the moment working in Maguire house north with specialising in end of life care for residents with advanced dementia, and are nearing end of life. It is a 10 bedded fully dependent unit, with both female and male residents.

# My role as a healthcare assistant

- My role is to provide holistic care, also to be the eyes and ears for the residents in Maguire north.
- It is vital that I am aware of all their needs as they may be experiencing pain or discomfort and find it difficult to communicate it.

# My role also involves

- Meet in their hygiene needs
- Assist each resident with their activities of daily living
- Pressure are care,
- Promoting their comfort
- Weekly meeting as a team for suggestions and decision making regarding patient care.
- Documentation is very important, also we use the epic system, this is a computer system, you enter in each residents daily needs so that we can monitor their well being. For example weights, diet, showering etc

# Challenges

- I love and have the pleasure to call myself a health care assistant, but there are challenges to my job for example; family dynamics, and exposure to death and dying.
- The biggest challenge for me is the residents lack of awareness and understanding of their condition, this is very hard to see.
- What I find greatly helpful in dealing and coping with these challenges is the great on going training we all get in dementia care, Responsive behaviours and palliative care we receive on a regular occurrence.

# Rewarding

- But the rewards outshine the challenges, I am very lucky to be able to care for very special people in St Lukes home who all have fascinating life stories and loving families.
- I get to meet those families each day with their loved ones. I have grown a great bond with both residents and families who become like your second family. This is very important as the families place all their trust in me to look after and care for their mam, dad, husband or wife.
- It makes me feel like I am making a difference for them as it is not easy for loved ones to come and visit their family member, living with dementia.





I will finish my presentation with this poem. Thank you for listening.

My eyes do see  
My ears do hear  
I am still me so lets be clear  
My memory may fade  
My walk may slow  
I am me inside  
Don't let me go