

A Day in Emergency

The psych patients we get,

Range quite a lot.

'Depressive' are silent,

'Manic' are not.

'Psychotic' talk rubbish,

Usually at the wall,

Challenge security staff,

And constantly call.

The paddy-wagon arrives,

The police bring someone in,

Usually in hand-cuffs,

They make such a din!

The air often turns 'blue,'
With the profanities they shout.
They're put in the safe room,
For their safety and ours.

Refusing medication,
And wanting to swing,
A 'take-down' is called for,
Six staff and a syringe.

With patient sedated,
The place finally seems calm.
The other patients relax,
Now fearing no harm.

But the 'proverbial bus'
Pulls up at the door,
They line up at triage,
Usually all sore.

"A Day In Emergency"

Some seem quite calm,
But some are dramatic,
They yell at the nurse,
And try all sorts of antics!

The 'Stubbed Toe' gets mad,
When the Asthmatics seen first,
"I arrived before him,"
Is the usual outburst!

A person who can't breathe,
Is in trouble indeed,
Your stubbed toe can wait,
It's the triage creed.

Inside can be a zoo,
Patients hanging from rafters,
The hospital is full,
It feels like disaster.

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Dislocated shoulder;

Boy with a rash;

Miscarriage bleed;

Car crash whip-lash;

Overdose; crushed finger;

Somebody bashed;

Pregnant and vomiting;

Burns of the flesh.

A fin-chop while surfing.

“On the bed you hop,

Doc’ll be in to do stitching,

Any tick of the clock.”

An old man fell downwards,

Over his dog’s paw.

Leg shortened and rotated,

“Hip broken for sure.”

“A Day In Emergency”

Old lady delirious,
Confused, jumps bed rail.
Urine infection –
AB's to set sail.

An ambulance arrives,
Patient transferred to a bed.
Handover is given,
“They’ve been hit on the head.”

A ‘Pissed-and-fell-over’
Sustained a lac,
Staggers down the hallway,
Bum showing through gown crack.

A ninety-year-old lives,
In a house with twelve stairs!
We call for the social worker,
For after-hospital cares.

“A Day In Emergency”

Our gut instinct says,
This 'pain' is pretend.
Drug seeker perhaps??
They're having a lend!

The resus team is called,
PPE diligently donned,
Ambo trolley to bed,
Ambo handover is heard.

Man fell off a roof,
Superman he is not.
Amongst many injuries,
Pneumothorax he's got.

Doc puts in a chest-drain,
His lungs quick to save,
He's breathing again,
Hip hip and hooray!

"A Day In Emergency"

He's losing consciousness though,

He must have a bleed!

With sedation lets intubate,

Then to theatre with speed!

Another resus comes in,

This heart beat has stopped!

CPR – we take turns,

And give adrenaline a lot.

An unconscious druggy,

Forgetting to breathe.

Naloxone awakens,

Now he's demanding to leave!

A child has just poked,

A pea up his nose.

We go to pull it out,

But he screams on approach.

“A Day In Emergency”

A chubby two-year-old,
Diarrhoea and high temp.
To cannulate she screams,
With every attempt.

Once in the procedure room,
She goes under nitrous,
In goes the needle,
“We’ll combat this virus.”

A teenager so drunk,
The bed they do wet.
Incontinence pad goes on,
In the morning they’ll fret.

Abdominal pain, could be
Renal-colic, or gall, or
Pancreatitis, appendicitis,
Constipation, or more.

“A Day In Emergency”

A chest pain comes in,
For troponin we test,
Aspirin, ECGs,
GTN, monitor and rest.

For Christmas or birthday,
New sets of wheels,
Being kids they fall off,
It becomes an ordeal!

Nurses aim to foresee,
The orders doctors will make,
To streamline the system,
So there's less of a wait.

"A gown to put on,
So it's open at the back.
I'll attach you to leads,
And your blood pressure I'll take."

"A Day In Emergency"

“Cough phlegm in this jar,”

Vein puncture for blood

“If you ‘wee’ on command

We give a hoorah!”

Sore feet; aching back;

A bladder to burst;

Bad breath; nil by mouth;

And that’s just the nurse!

Nurses caring for others,

Neglecting themselves,

Running around,

Helping patients feel well.

At the heart of it all,

Nurses do care,

We love to kill pain,

Give comfort and repair.

“A Day In Emergency”

We hold a vomit bag,
Wipe a tear - and a rear!
Hold a patient's hand,
When bad news is near.

What frustrates us at times,
Is the boxes we tick,
For statistics and butt-covering,
And a million 'mouse' clicks.

When we work as a team,
We can pull together,
To get through the hard times,
Relationships are better.

In the drug room or tea room,
We debrief or laugh.
Thank goodness we can vent,
To understanding staff.

"A Day In Emergency"

Our unified goal,
Is to patch, mend and heal,
No harm in the process,
To go home is ideal.

But sometimes we lose one,
Their 'number was up.'
But the younger they are,
The harder on us.

Admitted to the ward,
Or discharged home,
Some sign themselves out,
Or abscond on their own.

Beds quickly made up,
They don't get cold around here!
New patient arrives,
New story to hear.

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We need to be caring,
Yet stubborn and strong,
To handle each patient,
That comes along.

Stubborn we can be,
And so can the boss!
An iron brick wall,
You don't want to cross.

Yet he too is caring,
When we're sick or have loss,
He offers concern,
And gives us time off.

On night shift we work,
With a professional face.
Try to sleep through the day,
Though we wake up and pace!

"A Day In Emergency"

Don't wake the 'dragon',
Trying to sleep during the day!
'Cause night shift wreaks havoc,
With fire you'll be slain!

All this we deal with,
All in a day's work.
Night shift or day shifts,
Tired or not!

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