



THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

Hi

It is hard to believe that we are already in December! I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. There is not a lot to report this month in terms of new things for the correctional nurse ...perhaps a quiet month is a good thing!

The American Correctional Nurses Association continues to develop on its path to becoming a recognized entity for Correctional Nurses. We are almost finished with the recommended By-laws for the organization, and we are still planning to meet in January via technology for anyone interested in participating. More information will be forthcoming on our FaceBook pages. "Liking" us will ensure that you get notice when new information is posted.

A short story to share with you. Last week, I had the pleasure of going to Kentucky to do clinical at one of the jails there. One day, as I was going through the drive-through of a well-known coffee establishment, the girl asked me where I worked. When I said the jail, she said (and I kid you not!), "Oh, I am so sorry for you!" Of course, I immediately said, "Why? I LOVE my job!" and then proceeded to hold up the line to give her a little education on correctional nursing and what we do. We all need to take those impromptu opportunities to share what we do, and more importantly why we do it. The support of our communities, which is typically the result of knowledge about what we do, is imperative in getting the respect and support we deserve as correctional nurses.

Peace and Love to You and Yours this Holiday Season!

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The clinical topic this month is abdominal pain and assessment. Abdominal pain is perhaps one of the most frequent complaints listed on a Health Service Request Form in the correctional environment. Changes to routine and diet, stress, and the unmasking of symptoms as patients become detoxed from substances like alcohol and drugs may contribute to complaints of abdominal problems. It is important that the correctional nurse is well-versed in assessing for abdominal abnormalities.

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Correctional Nurse Educator

This month our featured, 50% off discounted class is *Abdominal Assessment for the Correctional Nurse I: Basic Assessment*.

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Nursing Behind the Wall

This month the clinical topic is the abdomen. At [Nursing Behind the Wall](#), you will meet and evaluate Mr. Simmons, a 42 year old male who arrived at the jail about three weeks ago stating that he used ibuprofen for his chronic back pain, omeprazole for his GERD, and drinks only on weekends. He has not received any medication at your facility, and is coming to Nurse Sick Call complaining of stomach pain and nausea.

[VISIT NURSING BEHIND THE WALL NOW](#)

In closing, I appreciate you taking the time to read this newsletter, and I hope that you will find our sites interesting and educational. Our profession of Correctional Nursing is unique and sometimes challenging, but always very important to our patients. The impact we make is far-reaching, even if it is not always evident as we care for our patients. I have ALWAYS been proud to say that I am a Correctional Nurse – I hope that you are as well!

Lori

Inspiration



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