



THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

Hi ,

As I sit to write this newsletter, I am focused not on the patient with thyroid disease that I had planned on sharing with you this month, but rather the COVID-19 health situation in which we find ourselves. Words like "unprecedented," "crisis," and "uncharted territory" are consistently being used to describe this pandemic. Nurses, Providers and everyone who works in healthcare are being celebrated as heroes and publicly thanked. The individuals who work at the jobs that keep our communities going, like the grocery stores and the gas stations, are also being recognized for their huge contribution to everyone's daily lives. All deserve the accolades.

Originally, I saw little about our correctional facilities, but a search last night indicated that COVID-19 has now affected many, many incarcerated individuals, and the custody and healthcare staff working with them. These numbers continue to increase.

Correctional Nurses are well-equipped to respond to this crisis! One of the foundations of our nursing practice is infection control, thanks, in part, to Florence Nightingale, who identified the connection between handwashing, cleanliness and fresh air, and infection rates. We have always been taught to use good infection control practices in all our interactions - hand washing for at least 20 seconds before and after a patient interaction, even after using gloves; using hand sanitizer if hand washing is not possible (like during medpass); and using other personal protective equipment (gowns, goggles, masks and face shields) as the situation requires. There is nothing known about COVID-19 that would cause us to veer from our basic infection control practices.

That being said, I also do realize that supplies and equipment may be in short supply, and so I again urge you to go "back to basics". Understanding WHY you do something (like using a mask as a barrier to prevent the inhalation of potentially virus-filled droplets) may help you to figure out another way to achieve the same or a similar outcome. Use your Correctional Nurse colleagues, and ask how they are accomplishing their nursing activities during this time. Please feel free to use the FaceBook pages for CorrectionalNurse. Net, The Correctional Nurse Educator and Nursing Behind the Wall (all links below) to post your questions and/or the best practices that you have found that work for your patients and your facility. Let us all learn from each others' experiences!

Remember, too, that this is a time when patient and colleague education is extremely important. You, as the healthcare giver, have become the on-site "expert." The CDC and NCCHC and ACA have resources with which you can provide the most current information.

During this time, when nurses are asked to do more, sometimes with less, and are asked to work even more hours, please take a moment each day to take care of yourself, whether it is deep breathing exercises, meditation, prayer, or even chair yoga. Be thankful that you are able to use your gift for good. Know that your nursing training has prepared you for this (and if necessary, go online and refresh your memory about necessary topics). Know that this will not be forever. Most of all, know that your actions and intentions are greatly appreciated by your patients, other staff members and your community! Thank-you!

Newsorthy Notes

The [American Correctional Nurses Association](#) Advisory (Vision) Team has completed and accepted the By-Laws and organizational requirements have been completed. We expect to be ready to accept members by the end of April. This entails setting up a totally new website, but the web address will remain the same: [www.OurACNA.org](#). Our plans to accept nominations for the permanent Board in the summer and holding the election in early October continue to be on track. We are grateful for those of you that volunteered to serve on committees and we encourage anyone interested to email ACNA at [members@OurACNA.org](#). We look forward to everyone's participation!

[NCCHC](#) has extended its call for presentations until April 24th. If you are considering speaking at the upcoming conference (NCCHC in October 2020 in Las Vegas) – Go for it! We always want more Correctional Nurse representation.

Speaking of NCCHC Conferences, the Spring Conference has been changed from Atlanta, Georgia to a virtual setting. It will be held on May 4th and 5th, and more details will be forthcoming with regard to enrollment and scheduling. While I always love to see everyone at the conferences, I am hoping that more people will be able to attend because there will be no travel time or costs.

The Correctional Nurse: Scope and Standards of practice expert workgroup has just received notice that our submission of the newest standards has been approved by the American Nurses Association Board of Directors. YAY!! The latest communication states that we should be published in the summer. As always, I will keep you apprised as I receive more information.

Be Safe!!

CorrectionalNurse.Net

This month, the [CorrectionalNurse.Net BLOG](#) will feature information about Thyroid Disease. Announcements for new blog posts will be posted on FaceBook.

Please [FOLLOW US](#) and check back often to ensure that you get notification of new posts!

[VISIT CORRECTIONALNURSE.NET NOW](#)

Correctional Nurse Educator

This month our featured, discounted class is [A Thyroid Primer for the Correctional Nurse](#). I hope that you find it interesting!

[VISIT THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE EDUCATOR NOW](#)

Nursing Behind the Wall

This month at [Nursing Behind the Wall](#) you will meet Ms. Sloan, a 32 year old female who presents to the clinic with intermittent heart racing/palpitations and no previous medical history.

[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!!

Rori

Inspiration



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CONTACT US

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