



THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

Hi Lori,

I hope this finds you healthy and safe. As our politicians decide that it is "all clear" to return to social interacting, please be mindful that others in the medical field have opinions that it is very soon and that a second wave may be coming in the Fall. Good infection control practices should continue, and I am grateful that we have been brought back to the roots of our nursing.

Today, I would like to share with you some thoughts about the phrase "will continue to monitor." I see this often during the medical records audits that I perform. Sometimes, the policies and procedures, or the nursing guidelines/protocols describe the timeframe in which the patient must be re-assessed, but more often it is left to the nurse's clinical judgment. In those instances, ensure that you document in the health record the timeframe that you decided was appropriate - "will monitor in 2 hours" or "will reassess at the end of the shift." And then, of course, you must adhere to the patient's documented plan.

I have been asked on many occasions what should be documented at the end of the shift with regard to monitoring. Nurses have been taught that "will continue to monitor" is a valid nursing plan, but remember that your documentation sets forth the plan *that you will follow* in caring for your patient. If you are leaving, can you "continue to monitor?" No - but you can "report to the oncoming nurse that the patient should be monitored for [whatever the reason he/she/they/ is being watched more closely], with the last check occurring at [time]." I would also suggest that, if you do not have monitoring timeframes in your policies and procedures or protocols, you speak with your Provider and determine acceptable "official" parameters. These parameters should be written so that all staff are using the same ones. Continuity of care for our patients requires consistency in practice, with monitoring our patients for changes in condition being a critically important nursing function.

So, the next time you find yourself writing "Will continue to monitor," be sure that you understand the implication of that plan and that you are able to follow it.

Newsorthy Notes

The [American Correctional Nurses Association](#) held their third meeting virtually on May 21, 2020. Meeting minutes are posted on the [site](#). Membership is now open and everyone is invited to become a member! Dues are \$50 annually. There are also Affiliate memberships for corporations and individuals that support Correctional Nursing, but who are not, themselves, correctional nurses. Check out the [ACNA website](#) for up-to-date information on such things as the need for committee members, the upcoming Board election, and our **Inaugural Poster sale**.

The NCCHC Virtual Conference received very good feedback. For those who attended, remember that you can access the sessions that you did not attend for additional education and continuing education hours.

Finally, I have posted our past Newsletters on the CorrectionalNurse.Net website as a Newsletter Archive, and have included links to the current Newsletter on each site in hopes that anyone whose copy gets lost in the SPAM nebula will still have access to it.

Thanks for all you do, and Be Safe!!

CorrectionalNurse.Net

This month, the [CorrectionalNurse.Net BLOG](#) will feature information about chest pain. We will also have a post about Failure to Rescue. 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 Cardiac Primer for the Correctional Nurse: Arrhythmias and the ECG](#). I hope that you find it interesting!

VISIT THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE EDUCATOR NOW

Nursing Behind the Wall

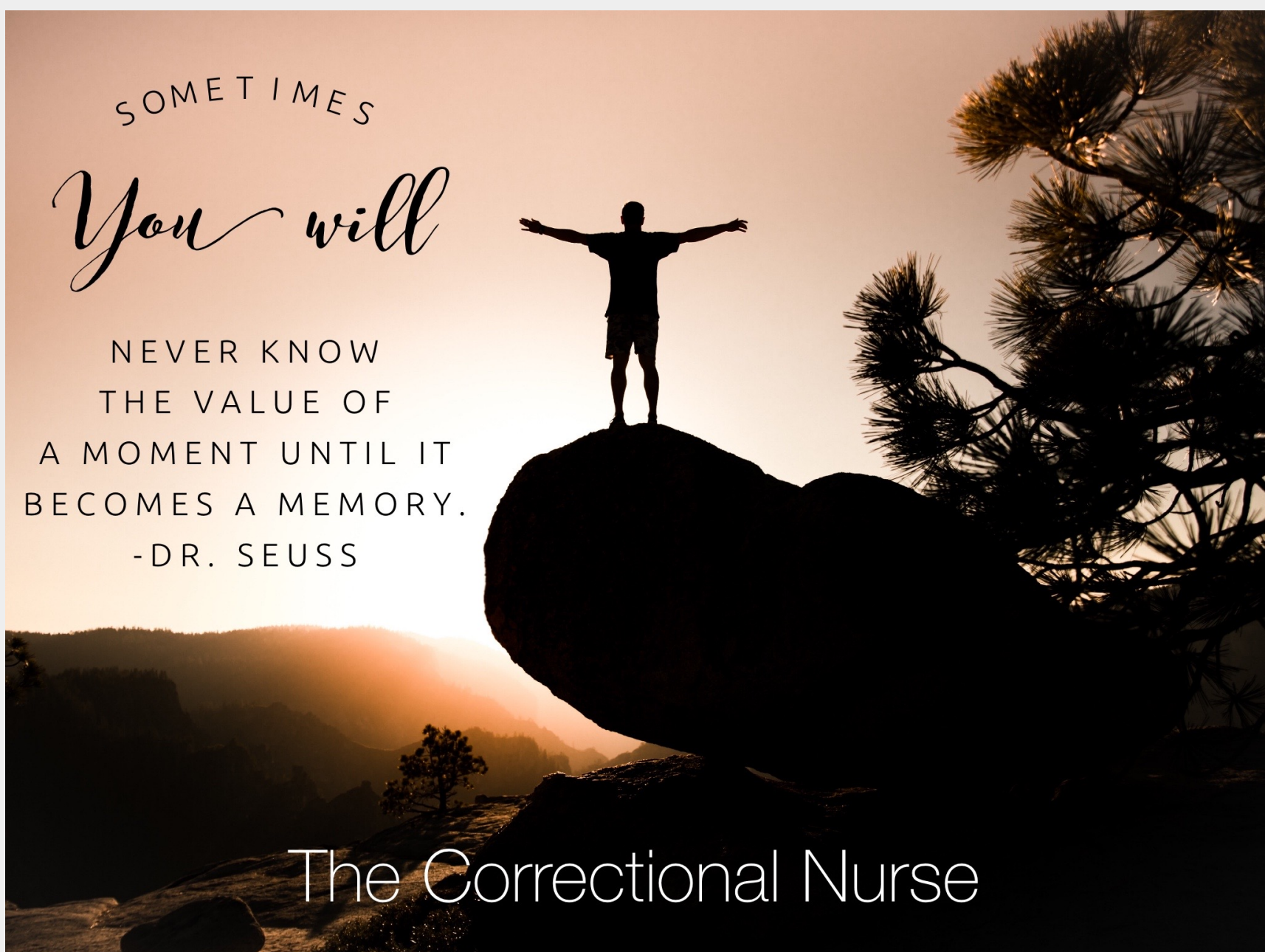
This month at [Nursing Behind the Wall](#), you will meet Mr. Johnson and Mr. Sigmund, two patients complaining of chest pain.

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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CONTACT US

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