



THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

September 2020

Happy Anniversary!

I cannot believe that a year has passed since I took over the CorrectionalNurse.Net blog, and integrated it with Nursing Behind the Wall and The Correctional Nurse Educator. What I have learned this year from writing this newsletter, posting on the CorrectionalNurse.Net blog and receiving feedback from nurses like you who read them, is that the issues each of us in correctional nursing face every day are not unique. Our colleagues are going through, or have gone through, situations that are very similar. We should learn from each other's experiences! We should be comforted by the fact that we are not alone in our challenges, even if you are the only nurse in a small rural jail. We belong to a wonderfully unique nursing specialty – Correctional Nursing. We are innovative and flexible.

We do good every day, even when we are exhausted and overwhelmed, and think that we cannot do another thing for another person. We persevere and get it done! We are advocates for our patients, all the while being acutely aware of the environment in which we serve.

We have patients who are truly grateful that we "show up" for them every day, during snow storms, hurricanes, floods, and even pandemics, putting ourselves in serious situations so they will receive the healthcare they need, even if they don't always show it.

We care for physical health conditions and mental health conditions, which often present together. Our nursing skills encompass primary care, women's health, juvenile health, geriatrics, trauma and acute care, orthopedics, cardiology, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, pulmonary, renal, substance abuse and mental health, to name just a few. One of the most important things we do is evaluate our patients and identify abnormal conditions that must be reported to the provider. If not for correctional nurses' keen evaluation, the patients' conditions could easily develop into something much more serious. Perhaps our most important skill is patient education. Our patients often have a low health literacy, and incarceration affords the perfect opportunity to improve this.

This year has also brought to fruition a professional organization for ALL Correctional Nurses – LPNs, RNs and APRNs. What a milestone for our specialty!

In closing, I thank you so much for coming on this journey with me. I truly appreciate the feedback and in general, just hearing from you. I definitely look forward to seeing what the future holds for us!

Newsworthy Notes

One of our colleagues, Sara Maguire, is completing her Doctorate of Nursing Practice Degree, and has developed a video-format program addressing the three most common complications of pregnancy that a correctional nurse is likely to address when caring for pregnant and incarcerated women. Her goal is to increase the knowledge and self-confidence of nurses who work in prisons and jails that may not have an obstetrical provider on site at all times. Although maternal emergencies may not occur frequently, they can be extremely stressful to nursing staff, especially in the event of an adverse outcome for the woman or the baby. Her research is measuring whether the format and the content of her video are effective. The video and questionnaires (pre and post) will take about 20-30 minutes. Unless you are an OB expert, the content is well worth your time. The link is the following: <https://umich.qualtrics.com/jf..> The deadline for participation is September 14th. Thank you for considering helping our correctional nurse colleague Sarah with her research!

The [American Correctional Nurses Association](#) is going strong, but we need you! Membership is 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**. Remember, the ACNA is the professional organization for **ALL** Correctional Nurses - LPNs, RNs and APRNs!

Our Correctional Nurse: Scope and Standards of Practice, 3rd edition should be available on October 1st.

[The National Commission on Correctional Health Care](#) has posted its Call for Submission for Presentations for the Spring 2021 conference. Please consider presenting a nursing topic!!

Remember that you can find our past Newsletters on the CorrectionalNurse.Net website in the Newsletter Archive.

Thanks for all you do, and Be Safe!!

CorrectionalNurse.Net

This month, the **CorrectionalNurse.Net BLOG** will feature The Top Ten Skills for Correctional Nurses. This will be covered in two posts, each with 5 skills.

Our professional practice topics will continue with Nursing Ethics: The Patient is Primary (Provision 2). As always, announcements for new blog posts will be posted on our FaceBook pages.

Please **FOLLOW US** and check back often to ensure that you get notification of new posts!

VISIT CORRECTIONALNURSE.NET NOW

Correctional Nurse Educator

In honor of our one-year anniversary, we are offering the Ten Class Bundle (20 continuing education accredited hours) for only \$49.95! This bundle will return to its usual price of \$129.95 on October 1st.

I hope that you enjoy the classes!

VISIT THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE EDUCATOR NOW

Nursing Behind the Wall

This month at **Nursing Behind the Wall**, you will meet Mr. Owens, a patient who presents with a complaint of a swollen, painful great toe.

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

Joy is what happens
when we allow ourselves
to recognize how good
things really are
-Marianne Williamson

The Correctional Nurse

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