



# THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

## Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

October 2020

Last month I was fortunate to do a week-long training at one of my contracted jail sites. It was invigorating to meet nurses just beginning their correctional nurse practice, and to hear the experiences of the seasoned correctional nurses there. As I discussed Correctional Nursing in my first session, I decided to include in our October Newsletter some of the information I shared. For some of us, this is not new information, but I think it is important to keep reminding ourselves (and others) how important our work really is!

Correctional nursing and the individuals who engage in its practice (us) are unique. We must have keen evaluation skills that allow us to identify abnormal presentations and report them to the providers with whom we work succinctly, but thoroughly enough to describe our patient as we see them at that moment. We must be able to identify when our patient is deteriorating, and act quickly to contact a provider or send him/her/they out to the emergency department to get the care and treatment required.

We must be able to educate our patients so that they understand about their injury, disease process, medications and treatments (just to name a few topics about which we educate), even when they have low health literacy. We must educate our colleagues, who may often have competing priorities, about the practice of correctional nursing and the importance of access to care for our patients. We must be flexible and ingenious, figuring out how to provide our nursing interventions within the confines of the correctional environment (I always think about how sometimes we must be very creative in our splinting techniques!).

We are our patient's advocate...always, and we must remember that our patients rely on us for their healthcare. They cannot decide to bring themselves to the Urgent Care Center or the emergency department if they feel something is wrong, as we can. Being a Correctional Nurse is a daunting responsibility, but also one filled with great rewards. We do good every day, and we truly do save lives!

As I am sure you have heard me say many times, we are a nursing specialty, recognized by the American Nurses Association, and this month marks the publication of the third edition of our *Correctional Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*. This document is the result of many months of work from correctional nursing experts across the United States who represented Correctional Nurses in state, federal and county facilities working with juveniles and adults. We were employed by public and private entities, academia, and some of us were self-employed. Overall, the different perspectives, I believe, led to robust conversations and a document that is truly reflective of the practice of all Correctional Nurses.

The Correctional Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice, third edition can be purchased on the [ANA website](#). I strongly recommend that you have at least one copy at your facility so that all nurses have access to it.

### Newsworthy Notes

The [American Correctional Nurses Association](#) has announced that nominations are closed for the election for an At-Large Board Member. Voting will be open from October 10th through 2359 hours on October 14th. Please take the time to read about the nominees on the website, and cast your vote for the person you believe will be best to help grow the organization and move it towards its vision of being the voice of all correctional nurses.

The ACNA has also posted on its website that a number of its members have received awards and grants, and have published their first research. Please check it out! Having our colleagues in Correctional Nursing get published and win awards reinforces that we are a specialty and helps to let our nursing colleagues know that we are here!

The ACNA is looking for additional individuals to serve on its committees ...please join if you haven't already, and please consider volunteering! Check out the [ACNA website](#) for up-to-date information. Remember, the ACNA is the professional organization for **ALL** Correctional Nurses - LPNs, RNs and APRNs!

[The National Commission on Correctional Health Care](#) will be holding its [Fall conference](#) virtually November 2-4. I attended the last virtual conference and it was very interesting and engaging, and the best part was being able to view the sessions that I could not see "live" after the conference was done (and getting the CEs for all classes attended or viewed). I hope to "see" you there!

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 care and concerns for the pregnant patient in the correctional environment.

Our professional practice topics will continue with Nursing Ethics. This month features a discussion of the tenet that the nurse owes the same duties to self as to others (Provision 5). We will also discuss Provision 4: The nurse has the authority, accountability and responsibility for nursing practice. 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!

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## Correctional Nurse Educator

Our 50% off featured class this month is *Women's Health for the Correctional Nurse*.

I hope that you enjoy it!

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## Nursing Behind the Wall

This month at [Nursing Behind the Wall](#), you will meet Ms. Martinez, a patient who presents with a complaint of left-lower abdominal pain.

[VISIT NURSING BEHIND THE WALL NOW](#)

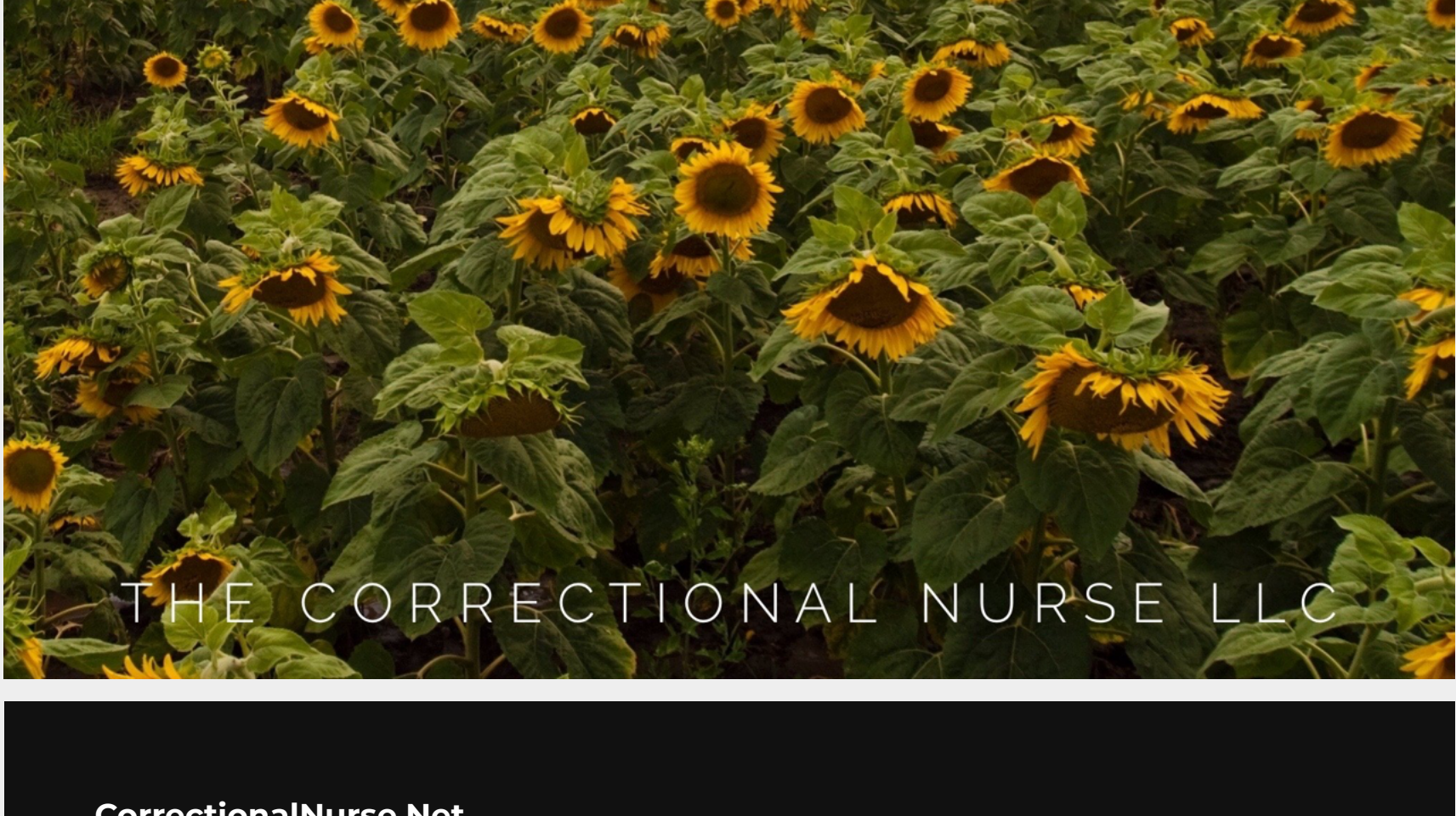
In closing, I appreciate you taking the time to read this newsletter, and I hope that you will find our sites interesting and educational. Our profession of Correctional Nursing is unique and sometimes challenging, but always very important to our patients. The impact we make is far-reaching, even if 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

THEY TRIED TO BURY US. THEY DIDN'T KNOW WE WERE SEEDS.

— Mexican Proverb —



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