



THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

June 2021

I was recently asked to agree with the statement that "all inmates lie about their symptoms," most often to get out of jail/prison for a "field trip" to the local emergency department. I did not, because I do not agree. While I have certainly known of situations when it was determined that the patient was feigning illness, it was only after all potential medical/mental health causes of their symptoms were ruled out. It is certainly not all patients, nor is it even the majority of the patients we see in correctional facilities who are not truthful about their symptoms.

Our responsibility as correctional nurses is to listen to the patients' complaints, conduct an appropriate and thorough physical/mental health evaluation of the patient (including a complete set of vital signs), and then, consult with the provider for any abnormal findings. This is not difficult, but requires a solid assessment skills foundation. If you were not taught these skills, or have not used the skills learned in nursing school or during your site orientation in a while, then it is your responsibility as a nurse to identify, acknowledge and address these deficits. It is a sign of professional strength and growth to do so.

There are resources available to Correctional Nurses who wish to refresh their basic nursing education or learn new things specific to our correctional environment. Classes at [The Correctional Nurse Educator](#), sessions at correctional conferences like those presented by the [National Commission on Correctional Health Care](#) and the [American Correctional Association](#), articles from peer reviewed journals like the [Journal of Correctional Health Care](#), and accredited presentations offered by the [American Correctional Nurses Association](#) are all excellent resources for Correctional Nurses. In addition, there are classes in basic body systems and disease pathophysiology offered for free at [The Khan Academy](#) (and I am always reminding my students that knowing how the body is supposed to work will help them to identify more quickly when it is not working properly).

Whichever path, or combination of paths you choose for your learning, know that by doing so you are not only improving your skills and clinical reasoning, you will also improve the quality of patient care that you provide!

Newsworthy Notes

The National Commission on Correctional Health Care is holding its Mental Health online conference on July 20-21, 2021. Registration can be done on the [NCCHC website](#).

The American Correctional Association will hold its 151st Congress of Correction on August 11-15, 2021 in Nashville. It will include virtual and in-person activities. Registration can be made on the [ACA website](#).

The American Correctional Nurses Association will be soliciting nominations for its 2021 Elections, to be held in October. Please check out the [website](#). The ACNA has been granted provider status by the Florida Board of Nursing, and will soon be offering continuing education programs that will award accredited continuing education hours. Watch the ACNA website for details soon!

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 at [CorrectionalNurse.Net](#) our clinical discussion will be about Systemic Lupus Erythematosus.

We will also continue our professional practice discussion about Communication. 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

Our 50% off featured class this month is [Systemic Lupus Erythematosus for the Correctional Nurse](#).

I hope that you enjoy it!

[VISIT THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE EDUCATOR NOW](#)

Nursing Behind the Wall

This month at [Nursing Behind the Wall](#), you will meet Ms. Rand, a woman with a rash and fatigue.

[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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