



THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

October 2021

I hope this finds everyone healthy and doing well as we enter the Fall season. This month I would like to share a situation that happened to me a few weeks ago, hopefully to underscore the importance of obtaining past records and reading them. I was covering a medium-large facility, and the nurses ordered past records on a gentleman who was newly arrested. He had several medical issues, but his most pressing was chronic back pain. The records came quickly, were scanned that day, and immediately showed up in my "Alert" queue. I read the records and noted, almost in passing at the time, that this gentleman had a CT scan last spring that indicated he needed further studies, but the next step, an MRI, was contraindicated because there was a "metallic object" quite large near his right orbit. The paperwork indicated that they would do the MRI if/after the metallic object was removed.

Not 24 hours later at 0300 hours, I received a call from the facility that this gentleman was crying out that he moved/twisted in the bunk and could not feel his lower extremities. Based on the records I had just read, I knew this was a remote possibility, and so sent him to the emergency department. I instructed the staff to tell EMS about the metal and ask that they relay it to the ED staff, so they knew he should not have an MRI. The nurse also put it on the "Off-site consult" paperwork that was sent. Interestingly, when the patient overheard the nurse telling the EMS staff, he stated he had no idea "I have metal in my face." When I heard that, all I could think about was the potential for a very serious injury to have occurred if I had not received the past records timely and if I had not read them. The patient did stay in the hospital for 3 days, and was released back to the facility with no deficits.

So the moral of the story - requesting past records is a very important task that you do, and may actually save a patient from harm. As important is the provider taking the time to actually read them!

Newsworthy Notes

The National Commission on Correctional Health Care is holding its Fall conference in-person in Chicago on October 30th-November 3rd. Although there are restrictions concerning distancing and physical contact, and requirements for immunization or proof of negative COVID test within three days of the conference, I am really, really looking forward to seeing everyone live and in person! I will be doing two presentations, and I hope to see you there. Registration can be done on the [NCCHC website](#).

The American Correctional Nurses Association will be holding its 2021 Elections October 20th - 27th. Please check out the [website](#), where you can read about the candidates. If you are a member, please participate and vote for the individuals you feel will bring the organization forward.

The ACNA will be holding its Fall Member meeting on Tuesday November 2nd at 5:30 Central Time from the NCCHC Conference. It will be both live and virtual.

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 Excited Delirium and patient care after pepper spray exposure.

Our professional practice discussion will be about the differences between jail and prison, and Correctional Nursing Fatigue.

As always, announcements for new blog posts will be posted on our FaceBook pages and on Instagram.

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 [Human Trafficking for the Correctional Nurse](#). I hope that you enjoy it!

We are also so happy to announce two NEW CLASSES at The Correctional Nurse Educator - Juvenile Obesity for the Correctional Nurse and Headache for the Correctional Nurse. Please check them out!

[VISIT THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE EDUCATOR NOW](#)

Nursing Behind the Wall

This month at [Nursing Behind the Wall](#), you will meet Mr. Santiago, a gentleman who presents with eye trauma.

[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

Stand for what
is right even
if it means
standing alone

THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE LLC

CorrectionalNurse.Net

Palm Beach Gardens
FL 33418 United States



CONTACT US

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