



THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

December 2021

Some months, the topic for my narrative for the newsletter seems easy, and others, not so much. While my clinical, educational, and consulting practices always give me ideas to share with you, when the time comes to write, sometimes my mind goes blank - or worse, it goes in many different directions, and I find myself straying far from the original idea. This month, while I was happily writing about gratitude, I received a call from a correctional nurse who was placed in a challenging situation and was asking me to help her figure out how to address it. This prompted me to change the topic for the month to the ethical situations in which we may find ourselves as Correctional Nurses. We will discuss gratitude another time!

More so than our hospital and community colleagues, Correctional Nurses are often faced with ethical decisions surrounding the nurse – patient relationship; our role as a patient advocate; and the delivery of nursing care. The nurse-patient relationship in correctional healthcare is patient-centered as it is in all nursing roles, but correctional nurses must maintain stronger physical, emotional, and mental boundaries than nurses in other settings. We must balance an attitude of caring and compassion with the recognition and maintenance of safe boundaries. In our practice, a caring relationship is conveyed through our words and actions, rather than a physical touch.

As advocates for our patients, correctional nurses must ensure that there is access to health care for all. This means we must actively identify potential barriers to that access and work with our administration and custody colleagues to ensure that our patients' health care needs are met and are timely.

According to the American Nurses Association, correctional nurses are accountable for their own nursing practice and bear the primary responsibility for the care they render to the patient. This means not only are we responsible for adherence to our scope of practice, but we must only provide care for which we have been trained and are competent to perform. This may be challenging in our practice environment when we are asked to perform duties that are outside of our scope, or education and training, but we must remember that nursing is patient-centered, and our goal should always be safe and appropriate patient care. Practicing outside of the scope of practice or performing a nursing act for which you have not been trained is never in the best interest of your patient.

I hope that this encourages you to think about what you would do and how you would respond if placed in a situation that compromises optimum patient care before you are placed in such a situation, like my colleague.

Happy Holidays!

Newsworthy Notes

The [American Correctional Association](#) will hold its Winter Conference on January 6-9, 2022 in Phoenix, Arizona and registration is now open.

The [National Commission on Correctional Health Care](#) has a call out for presentations for its Mental Health conference to be held July 31 - August 1, 2022 in Denver.

The National Commission on Correctional Health Care will hold its Spring Conference on April 9-12, 2022 in Atlanta. The members of the Nursing Advisory Council have been asked to present their 4-part webinar series, How to Achieve Success as a Correctional Nurse Manager, originally held during the month of August 2021, as a pre-conference session on Sunday April 10th. [Get all the information on the NCCHC website.](#) We invite you to join us!

The American Correctional Nurses Association is busy planning activities for 2022, including six accredited continuing education offerings. Check out the [website](#).

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 include handling sharps and verbal orders. Our professional practice discussion will include courage and professional boundaries.

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!

VISIT CORRECTIONALNURSE.NET NOW

Correctional Nurse Educator

Our 50% off featured class this month is [Anticoagulation for the Correctional Nurse](#). I hope that you enjoy it!

Remember that The Correctional Nurse will work with your group to provide accredited continuing education classes at a discounted and affordable cost.

VISIT THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE EDUCATOR NOW

Nursing Behind the Wall

This month at [Nursing Behind the Wall](#), you will meet Mr. Harrison, a gentleman who presents with a lump in his throat.

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

THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE LLC

EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY IN
THE END. IF IT'S NOT OKAY,
THEN IT IS NOT THE END.
- JOHN LENNON

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