



# THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

## Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

February 2023

Recently, I have been involved in conversations about correctional nurses' safe entry into practice, and more generally, the newly graduated nurse's preparation for practice. I came across a recent article concerning the significant decline in NCLEX RN and PN pass rates. It is very disconcerting to me. [The article](#) stated this decline is due in large part to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on clinical experiences. In some states, like New York, all clinical rotations were suspended for 18 months. In place of clinical, student nurses were given simulation lab experiences. While some high-quality simulation experiences are acceptable in a learning environment, research has shown that traditional clinical experiences can be substituted up to 50% of the time, but substituting 100% of clinical hours is detrimental to the development of clinical judgment. In addition, some of these simulations were actually online, not truly hands-on. So, how can we help our new correctional nurses (and our seasoned ones as well) develop clinical judgment?

There are blog posts at CorrectionalNurse.Net, like EIGHT WAYS TO IMPROVE CLINICAL JUDGMENT; THREE CLINICAL JUDGMENT ERRORS TO AVOID; and FIVE REASONS CORRECTIONAL NURSES NEED CLINICAL JUDGMENT SKILL, that discuss clinical judgment. If you use the search function on the homepage, you will get a listing of all applicable posts. Share the ones you like with your staff.

There are clinical scenarios included on [Nursing Behind the Wall](#) that allow nurses to practice addressing the presenting problem of a correctional patient - sort of a "what would you do?" You can also do this for your nurses by sharing scenarios from your facility at your monthly staff meetings, or even as a monthly continuing education activity. It would be great to have each nurse develop a scenario to share with his/her/their colleagues, including the clinical judgment required in that situation (and what foundational knowledge supported it) to best address the needs of the patient.

There is a class at The Correctional Nurse Educator that addresses this - Clinical Judgment for the Correctional Nurse.

More likely than not our newly graduated nurses did not have the real clinical experiences that we did during our education as student nurses, and we must, therefore, be sure to include clinical judgment in their orientation and ongoing, to ensure safe patient care.

### Newsorthy Notes

The American Correctional Nurses Association continues planning for 2023. If you are interested, they are always looking for volunteers to help on committees. Check out the [website!](#)

Upcoming conferences include The National Commission on Correctional Health Care Spring Conference - April 29-May 2; NCCHC Mental Health Conference - July 15-16; the American Correctional Association Conference - August 3-6; and the American Jail Association - May 20-24.

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](#) we will continue our discussion about the Correctional Nurse Manifesto.

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 at The Correctional Nurse Educator is [Ear Conditions for the Correctional Nurse](#). I hope 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

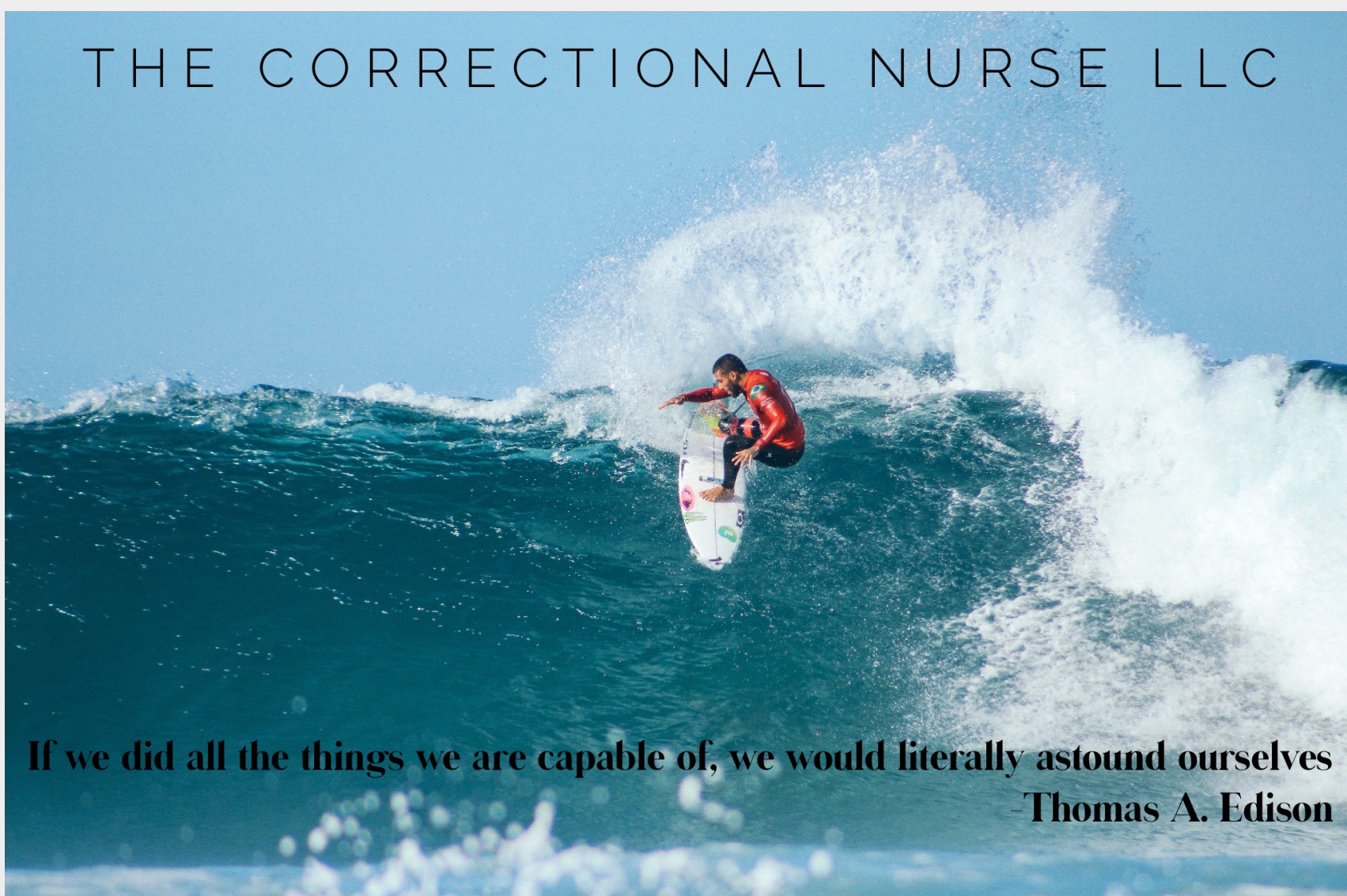
This month at [Nursing Behind the Wall](#) you will meet Mr. Simmons, a gentleman with abdominal pain.

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



If we did all the things we are capable of, we would literally astound ourselves. - Thomas A. Edison

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### CONTACT US

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