



# THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

## Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

January 2024

I recently had the opportunity to speak with some individuals who had no idea what correctional nursing was, or even that there were nurses whose made their career providing nursing care to incarcerated persons. As usual, I was very excited to talk about Correctional Nursing! The following are some important facts about Correctional Nursing that I shared.

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/them out to the emergency department to get the care and treatment required.

We must be able to educate our patients and verify understanding about their injury, disease process, medications, and treatments (just to name a few topics about which we educate), all the while addressing such barriers as low health literacy, different native language, mistrust and labile emotional state, history of trauma and security constraints .

Collaborative communication among the healthcare team, correctional officers, and other staff members is vital for a cohesive and coordinated approach to patient care. We must educate our custody 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 in the free world. 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!

### Newsworthy Notes

As I am sure you have heard me say many times, we are a nursing specialty, recognized by the American Nurses Association, and our third edition of Correctional Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice was published in 2021. It will soon be time to work on the fourth edition, and I am happy to share that the American Correctional Nurses Association will spearhead this project with the ANA. Your input will be invaluable, and when the workgroup asks for your thoughts, I hope that you will participate! This document belongs to each and every Correctional Nurse and we truly want it to be reflective of the practice and professionalism of all Correctional Nurses.

The next American Correctional Nurses Association OPEN FORUM to be held on January 18, 2024. Check out the [website!](#)

Upcoming conferences include

[The American Correctional Association's](#) Winter Conference in National Harbor, MD January 4-7, 2024.

American Jail Association conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL May 18-22, 2024

PLAN NOW for the NCHC Spring 2024 Conference to be held in St. Louis, MO April 27-30th.

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 be discussing Bullying.

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 at The Correctional Nurse Educator is Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism for the Correction Nurse. I hope you enjoy it!

Remember The Correctional Nurse Educator will work with your group to provide quality, 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. Powell, a gentleman with urinary frequency.

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

DREAMING, AFTER ALL, IS A FORM OF PLANNING  
-Gloria Steinem

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