



THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

October 2025

In September, I heard from a nurse manager whose team was reeling after a completed suicide occurred at their facility. The staff felt overwhelmed, guilty, and uncertain about what to do next. She asked me for resources she could use to help her staff and herself at this time. This is not uncommon. When suicide happens behind the wall, it impacts not only patients and their families but also the nurses and custody staff who cared for that individual.

Correctional nurses need support in these moments. The National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) and American Correctional Association (ACA) standards and best practices emphasize post-incident debriefings, peer support, and access to counseling resources. But beyond policy, it takes a culture of caring within our teams, including giving permission to grieve, space to talk, and systems to learn and improve.

Thus, this month I highlight resources for correctional nurses following a suicide event:

- **Debriefing:** Conduct a structured debrief within 24–72 hours of the event, led by a neutral facilitator if possible. Encourage all staff who were involved to share their perspective on what happened, identify missed warning signs, and discuss the emergency response. The goal is not blame, but learning and improvement.
- **Peer and Counseling Support:** Organize peer support groups where staff can talk openly with colleagues who understand the correctional environment. Formal employee assistance programs or contracted counselors should also be offered, with staff reminded that it is normal to feel grief, guilt, or anger after such an event.
- **Preventing Clusters:** Increase observation and communication for persons at risk during the four weeks following a suicide. Consider brief mental health check-ins, housing adjustments to reduce isolation, and clear communication to staff about heightened vigilance. Information about the suicide should be shared thoughtfully to minimize risk of imitation, while maintaining transparency and supporting staff.

This theme ties directly to our newly updated *Suicide Prevention for the Correctional Nurse* Correctional Nurse Educator course and the three-part blog series, *Suicide Prevention Behind the Wall*, that will begin this month. Together, these resources offer practical strategies for correctional nurses to recognize suicide risk, intervene effectively, and recover when tragedy strikes.

Read the full blog series on [CorrectionalNurse.Net](#) and explore the CE course, *Suicide Prevention for the Correctional Nurse*, to strengthen your skills and support your team.

Newsworthy Notes

Upcoming Conferences

The [Western American Correctional Health Services Association](#) (WASCHA) will hold its Fall Conference "Shaping the Future of Healthcare in Carceral Settings" October 22 - 24, 2025 in Sacramento, CA.

[NCCHC](#) Fall Conference in Baltimore, MD will be held November 1-5, 2025.

The [American Correctional Association](#) will hold its Winter Conference February 5-8, 2026 in Long Beach, CA.

The [American Correctional Nurses Association](#) is holding its 2025-2026 elections for President-Elect, Secretary and At-Large Board Member. I am running for President-Elect and would **greatly** appreciate your vote if you are a member. If you are not a member yet, please consider this my personal invitation to become a member. This is **your** professional practice organization and all levels of licensure are welcomed! In fact this year, we have LPNs, RNs and APRNs running in the election. Please join and make your voice heard!

CorrectionalNurse.Net

This month at [CorrectionalNurse.Net](#) we will complete our discussion of Infectious Disease in Corrections and discuss professional topics like The 2025 ANA Code of Ethics Provision 6 and resources for Suicide Prevention and staff wellness.

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

This month our 50% off class will be part of our Correctional Nurse Basics series - The Respiratory System for the Correctional Nurse. I hope you enjoy it!

New Learning Opportunities

I am also excited to announce several new courses now available at The Correctional Nurse Educator, based on your requests and feedback:

Medication-Assisted Treatment for the Correctional Nurse, Infectious Disease Prevention and Management, and Moral Distress for the Correctional Nurse are all new this month.

In addition, Self-Care for the Correctional Nurse, Women's Health for the Correctional Nurse and Clinical Judgment for the Correctional Nurse all have been updated and rewritten.

These new courses and updates reflect the challenges correctional nurses face daily and provide the knowledge and skills to meet them with confidence.

Remember, The Correctional Nurse Educator will work with your group to provide quality, accredited continuing education classes at a discounted and affordable cost that are specifically for Correctional Nurses.

VISIT THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE EDUCATOR NOW

Nursing Behind the Wall

This month at [Nursing Behind the Wall](#) you will meet Ms. Jonas, a woman with blood in her stool.

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

IN A GENTLE WAY, YOU CAN SHAKE THE WORLD.
-MAHATMA GANDI



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