

THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

December 2025

The Quiet Leadership of Correctional Nurses

Correctional nurses rarely think of themselves as leaders. We don't have the titles, the corner offices, or the visible authority that people often associate with leadership. But every day behind the wall, correctional nurses lead in ways that profoundly shape patient care, safety, and the culture of the facility.

Leadership begins the moment we step onto the unit. We are often the first to notice subtle changes in an incarcerated person's condition, the first to ask the extra question, and the first to advocate when something doesn't look right. This kind of clinical vigilance may not be flashy, but it saves lives. Quiet leadership is knowing when to persist, when to escalate care, and when to stand your ground because a patient's well-being depends on it.

Correctional nurses also lead through presence. The way we communicate with respect, calmness, and consistency sets the tone for every encounter. Inside a tightly controlled environment, emotions can rise quickly. A nurse who maintains steady compassion can de-escalate tension long before it becomes a safety issue. That steadiness teaches others how to respond, whether they realize it or not.

Our leadership shows up in teamwork, too. We collaborate with custody staff, support new nurses, and model professionalism for students and agency personnel who may be stepping into corrections for the first time. When we explain why a symptom matters, why a medication can't be skipped, or why a patient's concern deserves attention, we're shaping a safer, more informed environment.

And perhaps most importantly, correctional nurses lead by example. We demonstrate ethical practice in a setting where resources are stretched thin and shortcuts may be tempting. We treat every patient with dignity because that is what nursing demands. In doing so, we influence a culture where humanity can still thrive, even within concrete and steel.

Quiet leadership doesn't rely on recognition. It grows from integrity, skill, and the steady belief that our actions matter. Behind the wall, they unquestionably do.

If you practice correctional nursing, know this: you lead every day. You guide care, safety, and compassion in one of healthcare's most challenging settings. You may not wear the title, but your leadership is felt in your patients' trust, your colleagues' respect, and the countless moments when your voice, your advocacy, or your vigilance makes all the difference.

Newsworthy Notes

Upcoming Conferences

[NCCHC](#) Fall Virtual Conference is available December 10-11th live, and then recorded through January 30, 2026.

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

The [NCCHC Spring Conference](#) will be held in New Orleans, LA April 18-21, 2026.

The [American Jail Association](#) will hold it's Annual Conference and Jail Expo in Milwaukee, WI, from May 16-20, 2026.

Upcoming Educational Opportunities at the ACNA

Remember the [American Correctional Nurses Association](#) offers monthly webinars that are accredited to provide continuing education hours to attendees. These webinars are FREE to members, and \$20 to non-members. Past webinars are also available On-Demand.

CorrectionalNurse.Net

This month at [CorrectionalNurse.Net](#) we will discuss the importance of following-up on vital signs that are outside of expected parameters and professional topics like The 2025 ANA Code of Ethics Provision 9.

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 is Pregnancy for the Correctional Nurse. I hope you enjoy it!

New Learning Opportunities at CNE

Don't forget we have new classes available at The Correctional Nurse Educator. 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 Mr. Howard, a gentleman with foot pain.

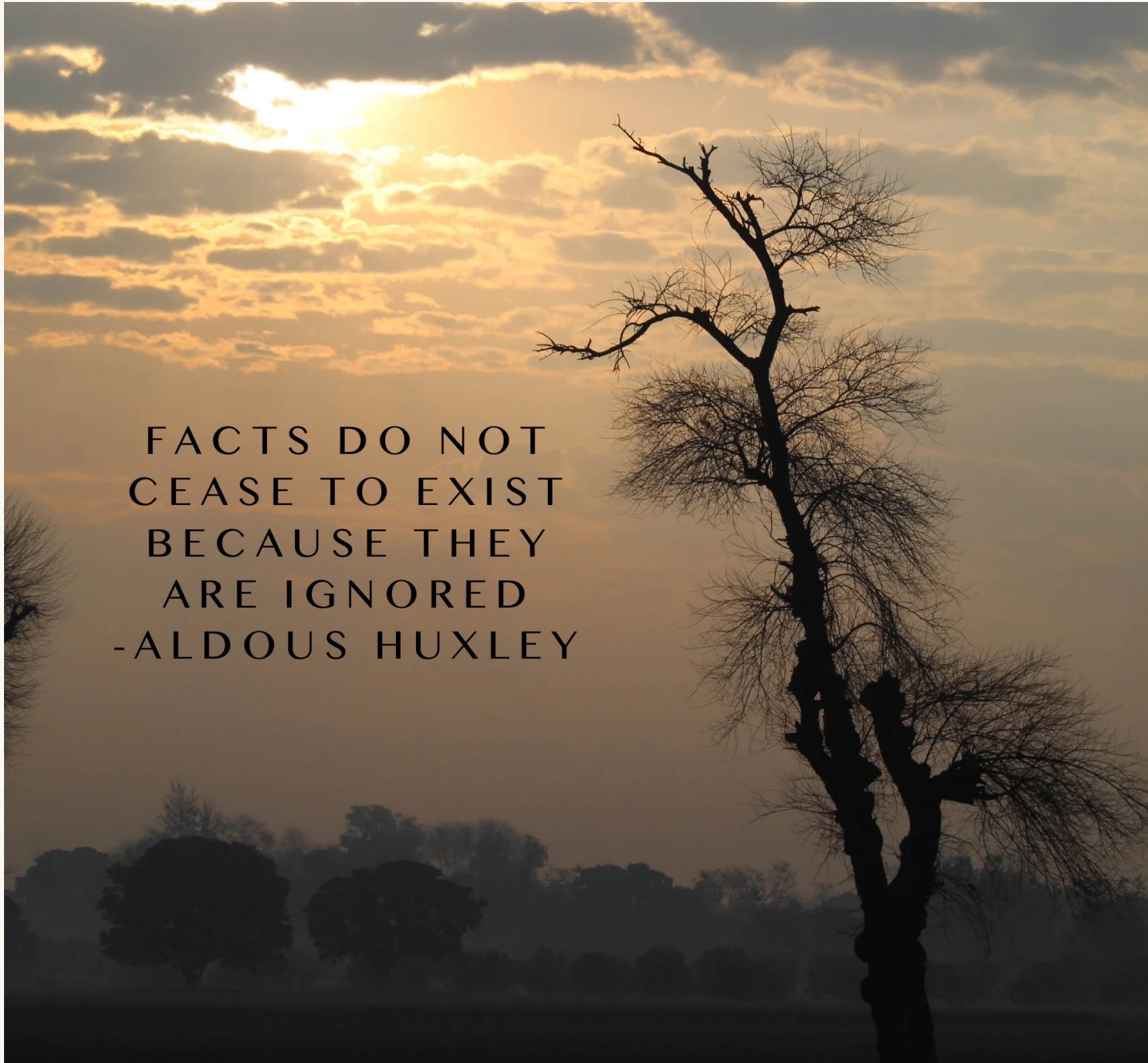
Starting in January 2026, our monthly case studies will look a little different as we adopt a new way to "report" our patients. Please take a minute and let me know your thoughts on our new format!

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!!

Rori

Inspiration



FACTS DO NOT
CEASE TO EXIST
BECAUSE THEY
ARE IGNORED
-ALDOUS HUXLEY

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