



THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

January 2026 - A New Year, Behind the Wall

As we step into a new year, it's worth pausing, just briefly, to acknowledge what we are leaving behind. The past year likely held long shifts, difficult decisions, ethical tension, moments of quiet pride, and moments that followed you home. Correctional nursing is not easy work, and it is rarely seen. Yet, day after day, you showed up behind the wall and did what nurses do best: you cared, you assessed, you advocated, and you stayed.

Gratitude belongs here. Gratitude for the patients whose trust you earned, sometimes slowly and imperfectly. Gratitude for colleagues who understood without explanation. Gratitude for the skills you sharpened under pressure and the judgment you strengthened when resources were limited. Even the hard days taught us something—about ourselves, about boundaries, and about the importance of practicing with both compassion and clarity.

I also want to share my personal thanks. Thank you for reading this newsletter, for engaging with the blog, and for trusting me with your continuing education through the Correctional Nurse Educator courses. It is a privilege to learn alongside you, to reflect on this work together, and to support your practice in a meaningful way.

The new year brings opportunity, not necessarily for fewer challenges, but for steadier footing. Hope in correctional nursing is rarely loud; it's quiet and persistent. It shows up in better questions, earlier interventions, firmer professional boundaries, and a deeper confidence in your role. It shows up when you speak up, when you say no appropriately, and when you continue to practice ethically even when it's uncomfortable.

As we move forward, remember this: what you do matters. Your presence matters. Your nursing judgment matters. Behind the wall, you are often the first line of care, and sometimes the last safeguard. May the coming year bring you moments of renewal, professional growth, and the reassurance that the work you do, though challenging, is meaningful and worthy.

Here's to another year of skilled, thoughtful, courageous correctional nursing.

Lori

Newseworthy Notes

Upcoming Conferences

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 its Annual Conference and Jail Expo in Milwaukee, WI, from May 16-20, 2026.

The [WACHSA](#) conference will be held in San Diego this year - October 21-23, 2026. Please join us in beautiful San Diego!

CorrectionalNurse.Net

This month at [CorrectionalNurse.Net](#) we will continue our discussion of working the night shift in corrections and professional topics including Provision 10, the final provision of The 2025 ANA Code of Ethics.

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 [Inflammatory Bowel Disease for the Correctional Nurse](#). I hope you enjoy it!

New Learning Opportunities

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](#) we will begin our new format for the clinical judgment case scenarios for Ms. Jenkins' story of abdominal pain and pregnancy. Please take a minute and let me know your thoughts!

[VISIT NURSING BEHIND THE WALL NOW](#)

In closing, thank you for being part of this community and for taking the time to read this newsletter. I hope you continue to find our sites timely, practical, and meaningful to your work. Correctional nursing is a distinct specialty, often complex, frequently challenging, and critically important to the health and dignity of the patients we serve. The care you provide has a lasting impact, even when it goes unseen or unacknowledged. I have always been proud to say that I am a correctional nurse, and I hope you carry that same sense of professional pride in the vital work you do every day!

Lori

Inspiration

I THINK ONE'S FEELINGS WASTE THEMSELVES IN WORDS: THEY OUGHT ALL TO BE DISTILLED INTO ACTIONS WHICH BRINGS RESULTS.

— Florence Nightingale —

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