



THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

February 2026

Recent events in Minneapolis and in other parts of the country have prompted many in our profession to pause and reflect on the broader climate in which we are practicing healthcare today. Federal immigration enforcement actions, and the community responses that followed, have brought national attention to the intersection of public safety, individual rights, and human impact.

In January 2026, Minneapolis became the focus of widespread discussion after several serious encounters involving federal immigration agents, including those operating under U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. These incidents included the deaths of Renée Nicole Good on January 7 and later Alex Pretti, an ICU nurse, both U.S. citizens. As additional information and video footage became available, questions emerged regarding the circumstances of these events, leading to public dialogue, review requests, and differing perspectives across the country.

Local and state leaders have acknowledged the strain these events have placed on their communities and have emphasized the importance of review, transparency, and communication. Nationally, responses have varied and have included moments of quiet remembrance, public discussion, and calls for careful examination of enforcement practices. Across these responses, a recurring theme has been the need for thoughtful consideration of how authority is exercised, particularly in settings that directly affect civilian lives.

For healthcare professionals, these moments can feel especially close to home. Many of us work daily in environments shaped by power differentials, vulnerability, and high-stakes decision-making. Events such as these naturally prompt reflection on professional values, respect for life, ethical judgment, accountability, and the responsibility inherent in any role that holds power over others.

It is important to acknowledge the complexity of situations faced by those tasked with enforcing laws and maintaining safety. At the same time, complexity reinforces the importance of clear standards, oversight, and ongoing evaluation of practices that have profound human consequences. Holding space for both realities is not only reasonable, but necessary.

As correctional nurses and healthcare professionals, our work is grounded first and foremost in care, ethics, and human dignity. While our primary role is clinical, we also have a long tradition of thoughtful engagement in conversations that affect health, safety, and well-being, approaching these discussions with care, humility, and respect for differing viewpoints.

A Moment for Reflection

I encourage you to stay informed through credible sources, to engage in respectful dialogue when appropriate, and to reflect on how evolving policies and practices intersect with healthcare delivery and professional ethics. Whether through listening, learning, or quiet advocacy, each of us contributes in our own way to a healthcare system and a society, rooted in dignity and care.

Thank you for the work you do every day and for the professionalism you bring to challenging times.

Newsworthy Notes

Important Opportunity for Correctional Nurses

Correctional nurses are invited to participate in a national study examining Professional Identity in Correctional Nursing. IRB Exemption #: BB251IDS-I48, this survey will be the first to utilize the standardized PINS-3 instrument developed by Landis et al (2022;2025) and used across the discipline of nursing. Professional Identity includes 4 domains: values and ethics, knowledge, nurse as leader and professional comportment.

Your participation helps strengthen our understanding of what makes our correctional nursing specialty unique.

Completion of the survey will take no more than 15 minutes of your time, and will help us further understand of correctional nurses and nursing. I hope you will join me in completing the survey [HERE](#).

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 discuss the clinical topic of nausea and vomiting, and the basics of caring for incarcerated patients.

As always, announcements for new blog posts will be posted on our FaceBook pages and on Instagram.

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