



# THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

## Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

March 2026

### Spring Behind the Wall: A Season to Begin Again

There is something about spring that feels different. Not dramatic. Not loud. Just steady. Light lasts a little longer. The air shifts. What looked dormant begins to move again.

In correctional nursing, we know what it means to work through long seasons. We work in environments designed first for custody and safety. We manage chronic disease, mental illness, addiction, trauma, and crisis, often all in the same shift. We carry responsibility quietly. We make hundreds of small decisions that never make headlines but matter deeply.

It can be easy, over time, to move into maintenance mode. To focus on getting through the shift. To solve what is in front of us and move on to the next task.

But spring invites something different. It invites us to pause and ask: Am I still growing? Not growing in title or recognition. Growing in depth, in clarity, in confidence, and in professional identity.

Correctional nursing requires resilience, but it also requires intention. The populations we serve carry a disproportionate burden of illness - hypertension that has gone untreated, diabetes unmanaged, trauma unaddressed, mental health needs layered over substance use. If we are not moving forward in our knowledge, our systems, and our practice, the gap widens.

Growth does not have to be dramatic. Often it is subtle. It may look like refining your clinical assessment so you recognize deterioration earlier.

It may look like strengthening your documentation so your clinical reasoning is unmistakable.

It may look like mentoring a newer nurse who is struggling to reconcile custody culture with professional nursing standards.

It may look like setting a boundary when something compromises your ethical footing.

These are quiet acts of leadership.

Spring is also a season to reflect on identity. Correctional nurses practice in spaces where healthcare is not the primary mission. Over time, that reality can blur how we see ourselves. We can begin to measure success by efficiency alone rather than impact.

But our work is not simply encounter-based. It is outcome focused. Every early intervention prevents deterioration. Every thoughtful discharge plan strengthens continuity. Every professional boundary protects the integrity of care.

This season, perhaps the question is not "What should I achieve?" but rather, "Where do I want to grow?" Growth might mean pursuing certification. It might mean deepening your understanding of a complex condition you see every week. It might mean recommitting to advocacy, even in small ways, for systems that allow earlier access to care.

Spring does not deny the difficulty of working Behind the Wall. It does not pretend the environment is simple. But it reminds us that even in structured spaces, growth is possible.

And perhaps that is the most hopeful part.

We are not static professionals practicing in static systems. We are nurses capable of influencing outcomes, culture, and the next generation of correctional nurses. As the season shifts, consider where you are being invited to begin again, not because you have failed, but because you are still becoming.

This spring, choose one place to grow. Not for applause, not for a line on a résumé, but because the people in your care deserve a nurse who is continually becoming sharper, wiser, and more grounded. Correctional nursing is not an accident of employment; it is a deliberate professional choice. Let this season be a quiet recommitment to excellence - to clinical strength, ethical clarity, and the steady presence that changes outcomes in ways few people will ever see.

### 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 #: BB2511DS-148, 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 understanding of correctional nurses and nursing. I hope you will join me in completing the survey [HERE](#).

#### Upcoming Conferences

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.

The [American Correctional Association](#) will hold it's 156th Congress of Correction in Pittsburgh, PA from July 30 - Aug 2, 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 be discussing Mental Health.

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

This month our 50% off class is the [Trauma Informed Care 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 continue with our new format for the clinical judgment case scenarios for 2026 with the story of Mr. James, a gentleman who presented to Medication Administration line with altered mental status. Please take a minute and let me know your thoughts!

[VISIT NURSING BEHIND THE WALL NOW](#)

## Inspiration

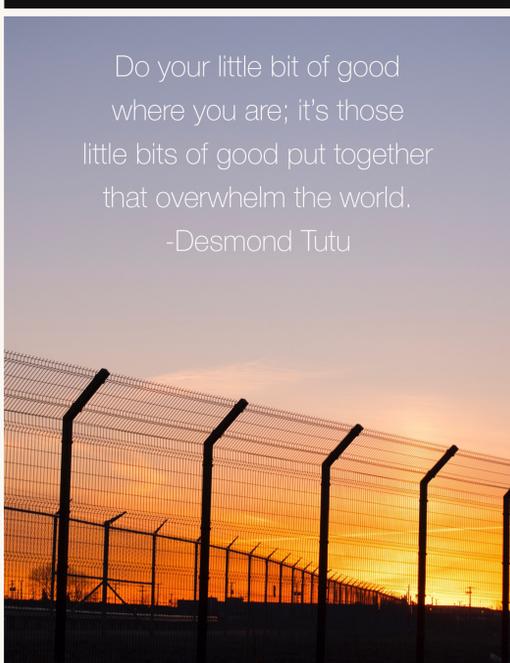
In closing, thank you for being part of this community and for taking the time to read this newsletter. I hope you continue to find our sites timely, practical, and meaningful to your work. Correctional nursing is a distinct specialty, often complex, frequently challenging, and critically important to 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

Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.

-Desmond Tutu



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