



THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

April 2026

The Visit Without a Complaint

Provider sick call usually has a predictable rhythm. People come in with specific concerns, symptoms that need evaluation, medications that need adjustment, or chronic conditions that require follow-up. So when one individual sat down and said he didn't actually have a medical problem, I was a little surprised. He explained that he was being released later that afternoon, but when he heard that I was still the provider at the facility, he had to request an appointment. He arrived yesterday for a parole violation after being somewhere alcohol was present. He would be released this afternoon. Then he said something unexpected. He told me during a previous incarceration a year or so ago, I had diagnosed him with hypertension. At the time, he didn't know he had high blood pressure. I started him on medication and talked about why it mattered to take it consistently and to follow-up with a community provider who could manage his care. I specifically used his son as an example of why taking care of himself mattered, as I often do when patients tell me they are a parent.

He shared that when he was released after that earlier incarceration, he continued the medication and followed up with a community provider.

That day in sick call, he wasn't there for treatment. He said something I have never forgotten: "Thank you - you saved my son's father." Then he stood up, shook my hand, and left. The encounter lasted only a few minutes, but it has stayed with me for more than ten years.

In correctional healthcare, much of what we do happens in the moment - addressing symptoms, stabilizing conditions, managing medications, and responding to urgent needs. The work rarely allows us to see what happens after someone leaves the facility. We may never know whether the person with newly diagnosed diabetes learned to manage it successfully, or whether the patient treated for hepatitis C regained their health, or whether the individual we counseled about hypertension continued their medication. Often, the outcomes of our care unfold somewhere beyond the walls of the facility.

Every once in a while, though, we get a glimpse of that impact: A brief visit, a quiet word of thanks. A reminder that something we did inside the facility mattered outside of it.

Moments like that stay with us, not because they are common, but because they reveal something important about the work we do. Correctional nursing may take place in a structured and often challenging environment, yet the care provided there can influence lives far beyond the length of an incarceration. Sometimes, years later, someone comes back just long enough to remind us.

What part of the care you provided today might quietly change someone's future tomorrow?

Newsorthy 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 Arthritis for the Correctional Nurse.

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 the [A Cardiac Primer for the Correctional Nurse: Arrhythmias and the ECG](#). I hope you enjoy it!

New Learning Opportunities

Don't forget we have new courses 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. Brooks, a gentleman who has chronic low back pain. 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



The Correctional Nurse

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CONTACT US

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