

THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

June 2026

The Safety Net Behind the Wall

Over the past 30 years in correctional nursing, I have lost count of the number of patients who have told me, "I haven't seen a healthcare provider in years." Some arrive with chronic conditions that have gone untreated for months or even decades. Others have struggled with mental illness, substance use disorders, homelessness, poverty, or a combination of challenges that made accessing healthcare difficult long before they entered a correctional facility.

These encounters have reminded me time and again that correctional nurses serve as an important healthcare safety net. When most people think about correctional nursing, they often think about medication administration, emergency responses, and intake screenings. While those are certainly important parts of our practice, our role extends far beyond those tasks. Every day, correctional nurses assess patients, identify previously unrecognized health concerns, provide education, advocate for appropriate care, and help patients navigate complex medical and mental health conditions.

For many incarcerated persons, correctional healthcare may be the first consistent healthcare they have received in years. We are often the first healthcare professionals to recognize uncontrolled diabetes, untreated hypertension, significant mental health concerns, substance withdrawal, infectious diseases, or symptoms that require urgent evaluation. Sometimes a simple nursing assessment uncovers a condition that may have otherwise continued unnoticed until it became a serious medical emergency.

What I find particularly meaningful is that our impact often extends well beyond incarceration. Every time we teach a patient about managing blood pressure, understanding medications, recognizing warning signs of illness, or caring for a chronic condition, we are providing knowledge that can continue to benefit that individual long after release. Patient education is one of the most powerful tools correctional nurses possess, and it is a contribution that is sometimes overlooked when discussing our specialty.

Correctional nursing is not always easy. We practice in an environment where healthcare and security must work together. We care for patients with complex medical, mental health, and social needs. We frequently make important clinical decisions with limited information and must rely on our assessment skills, critical thinking, and professional judgment, all the while being mindful of our scope of practice.

Yet these challenges are also what make correctional nursing such a remarkable specialty. Every day, correctional nurses have opportunities to identify health concerns, improve outcomes, reduce suffering, and make a meaningful difference in the lives of patients who are often among the most underserved members of our communities.

As I reflect on my years in correctional healthcare, I continue to be inspired by the nurses who choose this specialty and the care they provide. Much of our work occurs out of the public eye, and many people may never fully understand its value. But I do. And more than you probably know, your patients do as well.

Thank you for being part of the healthcare safety net behind the wall. Your assessments matter. Your advocacy matters. Your patient education matters. Most importantly, the care you provide matters.

Thank you for all you do.
Stay safe and stay well,
Lori

Newsworthy Notes

Upcoming Conferences

The [National Commission on Correctional Health Care](#) will hold its Mental Health Conference in Austin, TX July 18-20, 2026

The [American Correctional Association](#) will hold its 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 the communication skills.

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 [Inmate Manipulation for the Correctional Nurse](#).

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

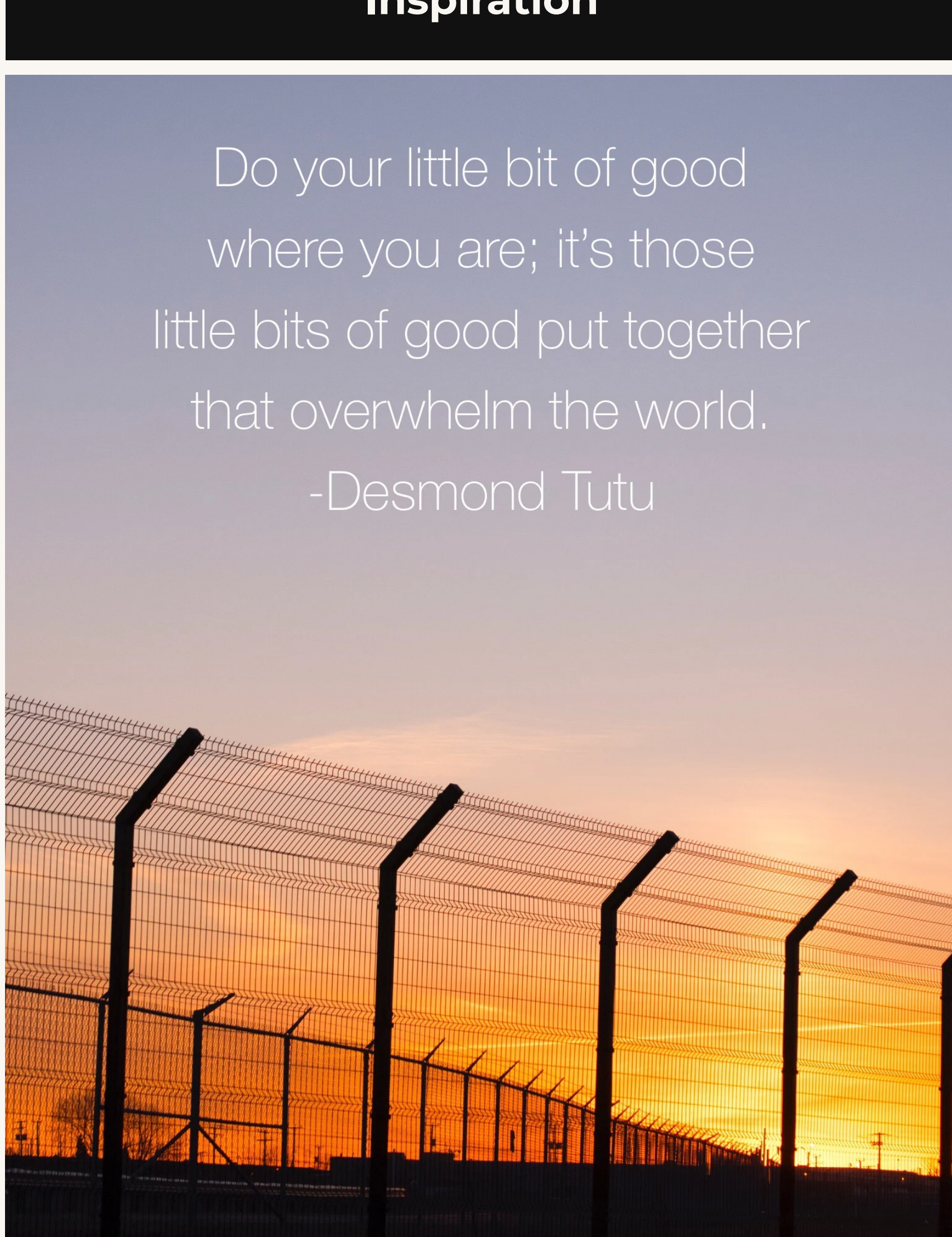
This month at [Nursing Behind the Wall](#) we will continue with our new format for the clinical judgment case scenarios for 2026 with the story of Mr. Lewis, a gentleman with elbow swelling. Please take a minute and let me know your thoughts!

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



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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