



THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

August 2026

One Profession. Every Nurse.

The recent announcement that the American Nurses Association (ANA) will welcome Licensed Practical Nurses and Licensed Vocational Nurses into national membership marks an important moment for the nursing profession. For many LPNs and LVNs, it represents long-awaited recognition of the essential role they play in delivering safe, compassionate patient care. It is a positive step toward strengthening nursing's collective voice and acknowledging that every licensed nurse contributes to the health of our communities.

For those of us in correctional nursing, however, this announcement also serves as a reminder of something we have believed for many years.

Since the American Correctional Nurses Association was founded, our membership has included every licensed correctional nurse. Whether you are an LPN/LVN, RN, or APRN, you have always had a place in ACNA. That was never an afterthought or a membership strategy. It reflected a simple belief that correctional healthcare depends on nurses with different educational backgrounds, different scopes of practice, and different responsibilities working together toward the same goal - providing safe, ethical, evidence-based care for incarcerated persons.

Correctional nursing is truly a team profession.

The LPN providing medication administration and recognizing subtle changes in a patient's condition. The RN performing comprehensive assessments, coordinating care, and exercising clinical judgment. The APRN diagnosing, treating, prescribing, and leading complex clinical decision-making. None of these roles is more important than another. Each brings unique knowledge and responsibilities, and high-quality correctional healthcare depends on every member of the team practicing to the full extent of their education, competence, and licensure.

Perhaps correctional nursing has always understood this because our practice environment demands collaboration. We care for patients with complex medical, mental health, and substance use disorders in settings unlike any other in healthcare. Success depends on communication, mutual respect, and recognizing the value that each nurse contributes to patient care.

As our profession continues to evolve, nursing organizations also evolve. Welcoming more nurses into professional organizations strengthens advocacy, broadens perspectives, and creates opportunities for professional growth. These are positive developments for nursing as a whole.

At ACNA, though, inclusion is not a new direction - it is simply who we have always been.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to supporting every correctional nurse, regardless of title or license. We learn from one another, advocate together, and advance correctional nursing together. That shared commitment has been part of ACNA since its beginning, and it remains one of our greatest strengths. Correctional nursing isn't defined by one license. It is defined by one profession, working together.

Stay Safe, Stay Well

Newsworthy Notes

Upcoming Conferences

The [American Correctional Association](#) will hold it's 156th Congress of Correction in Pittsburgh, PA from July 30 - Aug 2, 2026

The [American College of Correctional Physicians](#) will hold its annual education conference in Dallas, TX September 18-20, 2026.

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

The [National Commission on Correctional Health Care](#) will hold its Fall Conference in Las Vegas, NV October 24-28, 2026.

Did You Know?

The CDC has a quarterly newsletter dedicated to correctional healthcare. The second 2026 volume just came out - you can check it out and sign up for free [HERE](#).

CorrectionalNurse.Net

This month at [CorrectionalNurse.Net](#) we will be discussing Asthma and Why Reassessment Matters.

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 [Correctional Nurse Basics Series - The Endocrine System](#).

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. Bailey, a gentleman with a witnessed seizure. 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

When someone tells me "no,"
it doesn't mean I can't do it,
it simply means I can't do it with them.

~Karen E. Quinones Miller

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