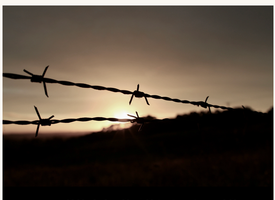
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THE CORRECTIONAL NURSE

Inspiring

Professional Correctional Nursing Practice

November 2026

Grateful for the People Beside Us

November invites us to pause and consider what we are grateful for. In correctional nursing, gratitude does not always come easily. Our patients do not often have the chance to thank us, our work is rarely seen by the public, and the days can be long and demanding. Yet when I think about what sustains correctional nurses through difficult shifts, I keep returning to the people who work alongside us. This month, I want to offer thanks to a group we do not always acknowledge in our professional conversations: our custody colleagues.

We talk a great deal, and rightly so, about the tension between healthcare and security. Last month I wrote about the skill it takes to advocate for patients within a system whose primary mission is safety. Those conversations matter. They can also obscure a simpler truth: on most days, correctional healthcare works because nurses and officers work together.

Consider how much of our practice depends on custody partners. An officer escorts a patient to sick call so that an assessment can take place. Officers stand with us during medication pass and housing unit rounds, keeping us safe so we can focus on our patients. During an emergency, officers are often the first on scene. They begin CPR, clear the area, and summon medical staff before a nurse arrives. When a patient must go to the hospital, officers make the transport happen, sometimes at the end of an already long shift.

Officers also notice. In July, I wrote that what we notice matters. The same is true about what our custody colleagues notice, and what they choose to tell us. Officers see our patients far more often than we do. They see them at meals, in the housing unit, at night, and in the quiet hours when symptoms can emerge. An officer might mention that a man in the unit has not eaten in two days, that a woman seems confused this morning, or that someone has been saying things that sound like hopelessness. That officer may have started the chain of events that brings a patient to the care they need timely. Many of the good outcomes in correctional healthcare begin with an officer who thought something was worth mentioning to the nurse.

Relationships like these are built over time and in both directions. When nurses take a moment to explain why a clinical concern matters, officers come to trust nursing judgment. When officers see that nurses respect the demands of security, they become more willing partners in patient care. The trust we build on ordinary days is what carries us through the difficult ones.

Gratitude is most meaningful when it is specific. A general thank-you is kind, but a specific one tells a colleague that their actions made a difference. "Thank you for letting me know about the patient in B unit. Your call helped." Words like these take only a moment, and they reinforce exactly the kind of collaboration our patients depend on. The same is true for the nursing colleagues who stay late, cover a shift, or talk us through a difficult decision.

This month, I hope you will look for an opportunity to thank someone who made your work possible, whether they wear a uniform, scrubs, or anything in between. And I want to thank you. Your dedication to patients who are too often overlooked is something I am grateful for every day.

Stay safe and stay well,
Lori

Newsworthy Notes

Upcoming Conferences

The American Correctional Association will hold it's Winter Conference in Phoenix, Arizona January 7-10, 2027.

The National Commission on Correctional Health Care will hold its Spring Conference in San Diego, CA April 3-6, 2027.

The American Jail Association will hold its Conference and Jail Expo May 22-26, 2027 in Spokane, WA.

CorrectionalNurse.Net

This month at CorrectionalNurse.Net we will be discussing Clinical Decision making - He's Sleeping, Should I Wake Him and Things I Wish Someone had told me about Withdrawal. We will also have our reflection section.

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 Clinical Judgment for the Correctional Nurse.

New Learning Opportunities

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

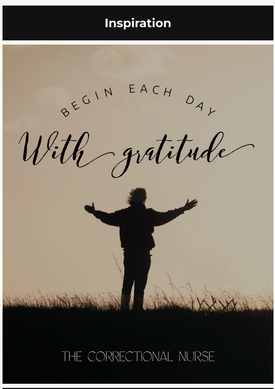
This month at Nursing Behind the Wall we will continue with our new format for the clinical judgment case scenarios for 2026 with the story of **Mr. Davis, who has severe back pain.** Please take a minute and let me know your thoughts!

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



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