



Nurse's Voices

Commander Nicole A. Knight is a certified Family Nurse Practitioner serving in the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP). In her role as Supervisory Program Management Officer she assists with providing administrative supervision and direction to the Health Services Department.

CDR Knight provides primary care to low, medium, and high security male and female inmates while promoting wellness, managing illness, and preventive health measures in efforts of improving the quality of health care for the nations underserved. In addition, she assists with managing infectious diseases utilizing a comprehensive approach, identifying health hazards in the environment and implementing corrective actions, and promoting healthy lifestyles. As a Quality Management Officer, CDR Knight establishes planned, systematic, and an organizational-wide approach to performance improvement. Changes are made to improve the performance of the Health Services Department, patient safety and reduce the risk of sentinel events among the inmate population.

CDR Knight received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing from Loma Linda University and a Master of Science Degree in Nursing from Howard University. In December of 2013, she completed the requirements for her Doctorate in Public Health with an emphasis on Preventive Care from Loma Linda University.

1. What was/is your most challenging/difficult nursing experience?

My most difficult/challenging nursing experience was when I was working for a Pediatric Home Health Nursing Service in Washington, DC, which provided in-home care to medically fragile children. One of my clients was a female baby who was 8 months of age. The baby required medication administration for various medical conditions, nasogastric (NG) feedings, breathing and various other treatments. Every morning when I arrived for my shift the baby would smile, grin, and coo at my presence. I would provide my care and interact with the baby and felt good about doing all that I could do to allow for her to stay at home surrounded by her family instead of being in the hospital. As the days went on, I would

arrive and find the baby soaked from her urine-saturated diaper, her NG tube pulled out, or medications not given. The mother would give excuses for my findings. Then one day I saw a bruise on the baby of which the mother had a story for how it happened. The next day when I arrived, the baby had on a cast due to a fractured leg. When I questioned the Mom, she told me that the baby's brother had dropped her. Seeing these signs of neglect and abuse, I had a duty to protect this baby so I had to report the family for potential abuse. Child protective services became involved and the children were removed from the home. This was difficult for me because initially, my objective was to assist with keeping the baby at home with her family however, I had to do just the opposite and assist with having her removed from her home to ensure for her safety and well-being.

2. What was/is your most rewarding nursing experience?

One of my most rewarding nursing experiences was when I was living in Columbia, Maryland while attending Howard University. One of my neighbors was an elderly couple and they knew that I was a nurse. Early one morning, some one was banging on my door. As I looked out of the peephole, I noticed that it was my neighbor. As I opened the door, she was frantic and stated that her husband was having a hard time breathing. She stated that she called 911 and asked if I would come help. I immediately followed her to find her husband lying on the floor unconscious. I began CPR and the paramedics shortly arrived taking over the resuscitation measures. He was transported to the local hospital and survived. Needless to say, the couple was very thankful and appreciative towards me. While I was only performing my ethical obligation as a nurse, it was rewarding knowing that I made a difference in their lives.