

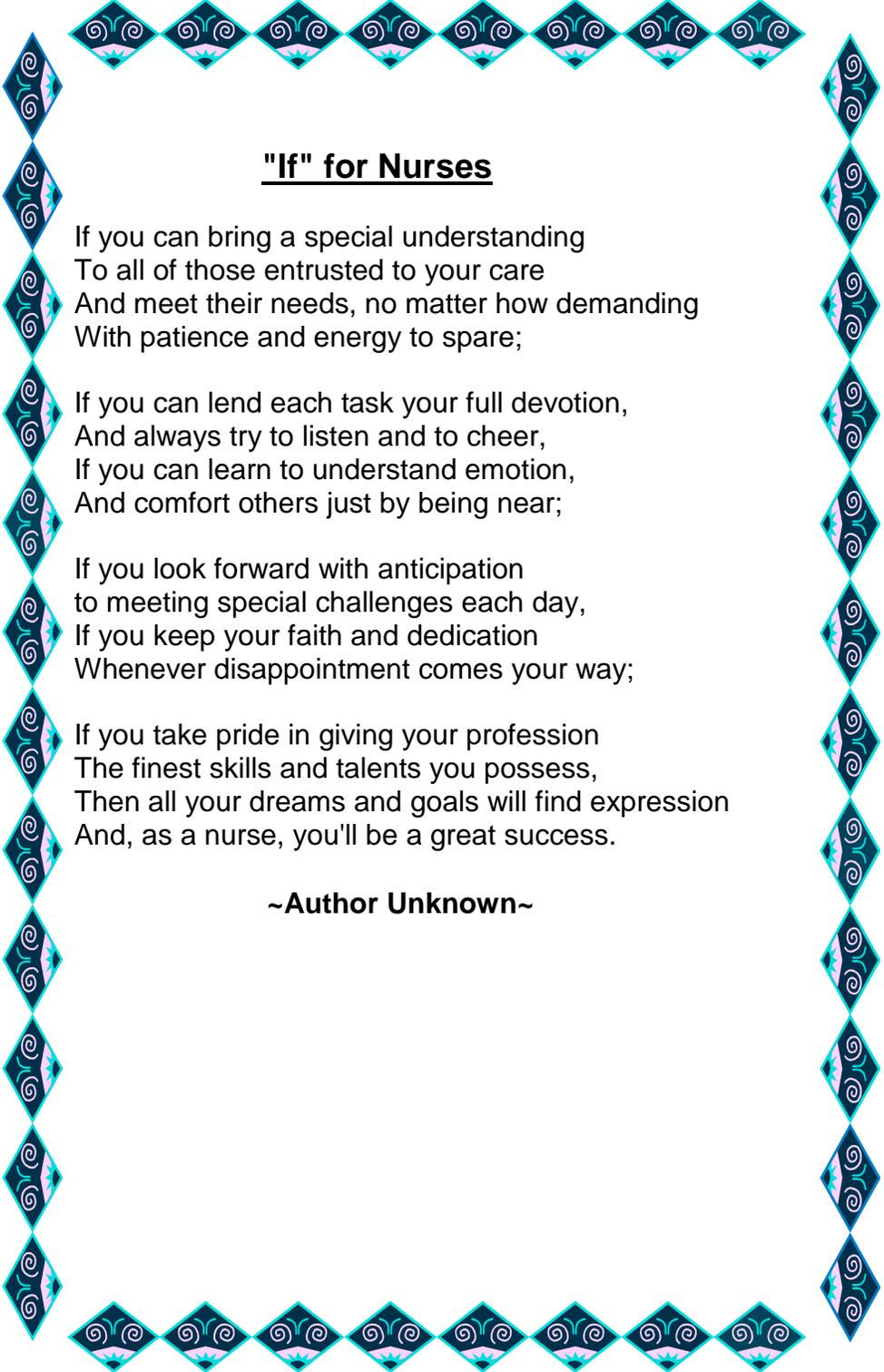
Nursing Notes

Celebrate National Nurses Week May 6th-12th

The idea for a celebration devoted to nurses in the United States, is credited to Dorothy Sutherland of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. In 1953, she sent a proposal to then President Eisenhower suggesting a "Nurses Day" to coincide with the 100th anniversary in October 1954 of Florence Nightingale's service in the Crimea. International recognition started in 1974 with the initiation of "International Nurses Day". May 12th, the birthday of Florence Nightingale was chosen for this purpose to honor the woman who is considered to be the founder of modern nursing. In that same year, President Nixon proclaimed the first "National Nurses Week" in the U.S. It was not until 1982 that May 6th was permanently designated as "National Recognition Day for Nurses". This day of observance was expanded to a week in 1990 by the American Nurses Association to incorporate both the national and international celebrations. Each year, May 6th through May 12th is recognized as "National Nurses Week" with a theme that is identified by the ANA. The theme for this year is "Building a Healthy America" which according to ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, *MSN, RN, CNOR*, reflects the commitment nurses make every day in building a healthy America for the public we serve".

**Happy Nurses Day
to all nurses that
provide care and
support to persons
served by DDS
Thank You!**





"If" for Nurses

If you can bring a special understanding
To all of those entrusted to your care
And meet their needs, no matter how demanding
With patience and energy to spare;

If you can lend each task your full devotion,
And always try to listen and to cheer,
If you can learn to understand emotion,
And comfort others just by being near;

If you look forward with anticipation
to meeting special challenges each day,
If you keep your faith and dedication
Whenever disappointment comes your way;

If you take pride in giving your profession
The finest skills and talents you possess,
Then all your dreams and goals will find expression
And, as a nurse, you'll be a great success.

~Author Unknown~

Important Information for Nurses on Swine Flu (H1N1)

DDS in conjunction with Governor Rell's office and the CT Department of Public Health are closely monitoring the Swine flu cases that are occurring. Current information can be accessed at the DPH website: www.ct.gov/dph and/or the CDC website: www.cdc.gov/swineflu

It is also recommended that you check the DDS website daily as updated recommendations will be posted there.

As a preventive measure we strongly recommend that nurses take this opportunity to reinforce training on infection control principles and on responsibilities regarding changes in condition. Here are some recommended topics to include:

Infection control

- The importance of frequent hand washing with soap and water
- The use of alcohol based hand sanitizers
- The use of universal precautions as appropriate
- The use of cough hygiene principles- covering mouth when coughing or sneezing, use of a kleenex or if this is not available, cough or sneeze into your sleeve
- Specific information on Swine flu (e.g., symptoms, transmission, etc.)
- Any person specific concerns

Responsibilities regarding change of condition

- The importance of being alert for signs that indicate a change of condition
- The importance of reporting all changes in condition to the RN as soon as possible especially those observations that may be related to symptoms identified for Swine Flu.
- The importance of maintaining communication with the RN
- The importance of being alert for changes in breathing or other potential life threatening signs that may require emergency intervention.

It is also important at this time to identify the baseline temperature of those consumers who are or may be normally hypothermic so that the RN can ensure that their PRN orders indicate the administration of medication for an elevation in temperature that is significant for the person.

Identify those persons who may be at increased risk due to the presence of respiratory disease, cardiac disease, diabetes, etc. and identify other possible preventive measures.

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Important Information for Nurses on Swine Flu/ Influenza A H1N1 (continued)

Consideration should be given to the development of generic guidelines for staff, related to this infection that will specify the frequency of monitoring temperatures, the minimum frequency for providing fluids, the documentation of intake and output, dietary changes that should be implemented for persons with vomiting or diarrhea, and limiting contact between those that are sick and those that are well/exclusion from day program or other activities. (These are not to be considered a substitute for communication with the RN).

If the RN determines that a person may be displaying signs of the flu, the person's health care provider should be promptly contacted so a plan of treatment can be prescribed. DPH is recommending that individuals not go to the Emergency Department for this purpose as this will overwhelm the emergency health care system.

When individuals are identified to have possible Swine Flu symptoms, this information needs to be conveyed to the agency administrator and should also be conveyed to the Regional Director of Health Services or Public Sector Nursing Director as appropriate.

Upcoming Educational Opportunities

Dysphagia Train The Trainer, May 4th, go to DDS website for details. www.ct.gov/dds

DDNA National Conference, Orlando Florida, May 10th-12th go to: www.ddna.org

CTDDNA, Quarterly offering, May 27th Lunch and learn program on Chronic Kidney Disease Care; 11:30-1:30 To register contact : williamsp@ciboakhill.org Registration preference given to current CTDDNA members

DDS Health Services Conference, June 3rd, CCSU, Details and registration information to follow in a separate notice

DDS Endorsed Instructor Training for Medication Certification, Starts June 11th

Contact Valerie Vujs, valerie.vujs@ct.gov for details.

Must audit 21 hour Med Course as pre-requisite.

CTDDNA Annual conference, tentative date October 22nd. Details will follow in September.