

Nurses, You Are the Best!

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Before my ward round, I always stop by the nurse station (Orthopedic Rehabilitation ward) on the ninth floor. “Is there anyone available to accompany me for the ward round?” I asked. One of the nurses near the patients’ garment closet stood up and responded, “Dr. Yeh, please wait a few minutes, we are bathing the Buddha (cleaning the patient). After this, I’m free to go.” “Okay,” I replied. Then I walked toward her to see if she needed any assistance.

Three nurses were cleaning a smiling patient efficiently. I spoke to the patient and told him how lucky he was. Although he was sick and hospitalized, there were so many white angels to look after him. He sure should feel grateful. After my words, the patient smiled even brighter. The nurse told me there was nobody at home to take care of him during the pandemic, nor were there any volunteers available. Therefore, once or twice a week, some colleagues would get together to do the wash.

After the rehabilitation ward, I went to the orthopedic ward on the tenth floor. The head nurse approached me warmly and asked if she could come with. All the nurses were treating patients so she went with me for the round.

I always admire the head nurse’s expertise, and



her candidness and caring attitude toward her colleagues. An orthopedics nurse, on the phone paused to tell me, “Dr. Yeh, wait for me. I will go with you. I have something related treatment prescriptions to discuss.” After the round, my pocket phone rang. A nurse from the operating room told me a patient had arrived at the nurse station but had some questions to ask before the operation. Another phone call was from an outpatient unit about a patient not feeling well after discharge. He wanted to re-admit with my busy outpatient schedule. After the call, I met a discharge-planning nurse and a long-term care nurse on the way to the nurse station at the operation unit. I discussed with them respectively about the patients’ conditions, and how to arrange a smooth and efficient discharge. I also mentioned the wounds: if not completely healed, ask for assistance from the wound care nurse.



The above encounters represent my daily challenge as an orthopedic surgeon. Nurses are an inevitable support pillar in holistic care, the soul in soothing a successful treatment course. They take care of patients' bodily pain and mental suffering, as well as aid their family members' exhausting bodies and minds with their expertise, friendliness, sincerity, compassion, and love. During the pandemic period, they stood firm and worked successfully on the first line of care even under the circumstances without any help from patients' households and volunteers. Their sense of mission and accountability is so awesome. People regularly use "White Angels" to describe nurses. However, when these angels have conferred the title of nurse, they had been given crucial and complex tasks physically and mentally. They can't make any mistake in each step of the task, and are facing unexpected situations. Their work and responsibilities are hard to imagine for anyone who is not in their shoes.

However, when we call them "White Angels"; I cannot forget that they are also human beings. They have their own emotion, and household tasks to deal with and take on. They also feel tired and sad. We should be more considerate and respectful. Although they are friendly, kind, and responsible, we cannot take it for granted.

My dear nurse colleagues, you are the best! I am so grateful for your willingness to take up this great mission. When you take care of the patients, we should look after you.