


be asked, and also promoted my learning when not on flights. The program, complete with the practicum, made it very evident that education is highly valued amongst the STARS organization and has proved to be the best educational experience I have had to date in my career.

Overall, this program has given me a chance to network and collaborate with 13 other incredible academy students comprised of ICU and ER nurses, paramedics and a GP from across Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. It has provided me with a greater depth of critical care knowledge and increased respect for my colleagues. I really am changed for the better. The level of knowledge, experience, dedication and commitment of the instructors and classmates has left an everlasting impression. Everyday I will strive to be better, do better and teach better. I encourage those who have a few years of emergency nursing

experience and are interested in advancing or improving your critical care practice to apply for this program... you will not be disappointed. To learn more about this program, please go to www.stars.ca. 

About the author



Christine Maxwell, BN, RN, ENC(C), is a registered nurse, practising for the past five years in the emergency department of the Grey Nuns Hospital in Edmonton, AB. She received her nursing diploma from Grant MacEwan in 2007 and her degree in 2011 from the University of Athabasca. When not at work, she enjoys travelling, spending time with family and her newest addition... training to run a half marathon.

BOOK REVIEW

Forensic Nursing: Evidence-Based Principles and Practice

Authors: Rose E. Constantino, Patricia A. Crane, Susan E. Young

Publisher: F.A. Davis Company, 2013, ISBN 978-0-8036-2185-5

One of the newer books on forensic nursing, this text addresses the science of forensic nursing from the perspective of evidence-based principles applied to practice settings. The authors state their goal in writing the text is “to provide a roadmap to forensic nurses nationally and globally as they continue to make a difference in their specific area of practice” (page vii). There are 30 contributing authors for this text including one Canadian: Catherine J. Carter Snell, RN, PhD, SANE-A, ENC-C.

The text is divided into four units with each unit having several chapters on the unit topic. Each chapter begins with a list of competencies and key terms relevant to the chapter. Case studies are included throughout the text, focusing on providing the reader with the opportunity to gauge their knowledge in relation to the content for each chapter. At the end of each chapter is an evidence-based practice question with selected references to answer the practice questions posed by the authors. There are chapter review questions in the form of multiple choice questions, as well.

Unit titles are:

1. Introduction to Forensic Nursing Practice

2. Forensic Nursing in Interpersonal Violence
3. Forensic Nursing in Special Areas of Practice
4. Forensic Nursing in Collective Violence


After reviewing the textbook, I found it to be a very well written, coordinated text reflecting current practices for the forensic nurse and others in clinical settings. It is not a text filled with photographs of injuries and crime scenes—in fact, there are very few photographs in the entire text. There is a very nice timeline of events in forensic nursing’s history, dating from 1948 to the present (page 6).

Chapters of interest to emergency nurses

Chapter 9: “Violence: Sexual Assault and the Forensic Nurse” describes the role of the sexual assault nurse examiner, the effectiveness of the role and legal outcomes. The chapter describes the assessment techniques of a forensic examination, the physical examination process and evidence preservation and collection.

Chapter 16: “Evidence: Forensic Nursing in the Emergency and Acute Care Departments” is of particular interest to the emergency nurse. It covers the development of health care-based violence intervention programs and sexual assault nurse examiner/forensic nursing programs within the ED. It identifies

screening issues and barriers to conducting assessments in busy EDs. There are two assessment tools provided in this chapter. One is for abuse assessment screening and the second is Jacquelyn C. Campbell’s danger assessment for women and men. The types of injuries commonly seen in the ED are described (abrasion, avulsion, bruises, laceration, cut, ecchymosis, patterned injury, petechiae, slap injury, firearm injury, bite mark and strangulation). There is a short section on the importance of documentation, as well.

Chapter 18: “The Forensic Nurse and Human Trafficking”. This chapter highlights an aspect of violence that has not been prominent in forensic nursing until the last decade. Human trafficking is a global issue. Health care providers including first responders, nurses and physicians must understand the dynamics of human trafficking in order to provide the best care for victims of human trafficking. The chapter provides a background on human trafficking, trafficking definitions, risks and causes of human trafficking, identification of the trafficked person, and health concerns of trafficked victims, as well as planning interventions, interventions and implications for nurses as first responders. A simple set of screening questions is also provided. 

**Respectfully submitted,
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President International Association
of Forensic Nurses**