

# The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same



It is amazing how much nursing has changed. Up until a few decades ago, starched white uniforms, white hose, white shoes, and a nurse's cap were all mandatory. Nail polish, tattoos, and jewelry were forbidden. Men in the profession were very limited.

Today things have changed drastically. More men are increasingly joining the ranks, we wear bright colorful scrubs, have thousands of medications to deal with, and increasingly complex technology. In many ways, nursing as it existed even one hundred years ago is unrecognizable as it exists today.

However, there is something that will never change no matter how nursing ages: we will always strive to create an environment in which patients feel comfortable expressing their concerns. We will not accept anything other than the respectful treatment of patients and we strive for excellent patient advocacy. Nurses now make more decisions about patient care than ever before; we have to keep up with new drugs, technologies, and regulations.

The face of the nursing profession has changed over the course of the century. This month's *Imprint* tries to bring you a blast from the past, and a look at the present and future of nursing. Take a look at a wonderful piece by Eleanor Krohn Herrmann – she describes “Mrs. Chase,”

the nursing doll that preceded Sim-Man® – the doll's history, and its entrepreneurial maker. Then read about the innovative Smart Hospital® established at the University of Arlington in Arlington, TX. The articles remind us how far we've come, and the importance of our roots and heritage.

As nurses we continue to strive for the top – whether in our personal or professional lives. Patrick Hickey's article on first struggling through nursing and then succeeding in it is inspirational. Not only is he now a nurse educator, but he recently finished a feat only achieved by few: he climbed the world's Seven Summits. In doing so, he became the first nurse to accomplish this feat. Finally, can you believe that only a decade ago nurses “only” had 900 prescriptions to keep track of? Now it's ten times that amount! Read Loretta Manning's helpful guide to figuring out pharmacology today!

Change has affected our uniforms, prescriptions, and teaching methods, but we will always be focused on ensuring patients get the care that they need – this has never changed! It seems that no matter where we are licensed or in what type of setting we practice, nurses strive for the same thing: optimizing our working conditions so that our patients will receive the greatest care possible.

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