

### **Murphy's Nurses Laws**

- When you need the money, your shift is cancelled; when you have a weekend planned, you have to do overtime.
- Realizing the patient you've just injected has a serious infection causes you to stab yourself with the used needle.
- A 500 pound patient needs all care, while your 80 pound patient needs a finger dressing ... and your colleague has a "bad back."
- It's your first night shift for three years. And it's a full moon.
- You're doing the "Only 27 more minutes of the shift from hell happy-dance", only to turn around to see your supervisor standing there.
- In a critical situation, the most highly qualified clinician will offer the most advice and the least support.
- The absurdity of the suggestion is directly proportional to the distance from the bedside.
- As soon as you finish a thirty minute dressing the doctor will come in, and take a look at the wound.
- The disoriented patient always comes from a Nursing Home whose beautiful paperwork has no phone number on it.
- Your nose will itch the very moment your gloved hands get contaminated with bodily fluids.
- The patient who has been dying all night finally meets his maker 12.5 minutes before shift change.
- You walk out of a patient's room after you've asked them if they need anything: they will put the call bell on as you are about three quarters the way down the hall.
- The patient furthest away from the nurses' station rings the call bell more often than the patient nearest to the nurses' station.
- The doctor with the worst handwriting and most original use of the English Language will be responsible for your most critical patient.
- You always remember "just one more thing" you need after you've gowned, gloved, and masked and gone into that isolation room.
- The correct depth of compression in adult CPR is a bit less than the depth you just reached when you broke those ribs.
- When you cancel extra staff because it's so quiet, you are guaranteed a rash of admissions.
- If you wear a new white uniform, expect to be thrown up on.  
Corollary: Residents always poop on your brand new shoes.
- When management smiles at you, be very, very afraid ...
- Staffing will gladly send you *three* aides--but you have to float two of your RNs.
- As soon as you discontinue the IV line, more fluids will be ordered.
- Mandatory meetings are always scheduled after you've had the night from hell and just want to go home to bed.
- You always forget what it was you wanted after you get to the supply room. You always remember when you get back to the other end ...

- Doctors only ask your name when the patient isn't doing well.
- Success occurs when no one is looking, failure occurs when the boss is watching.
- As soon as you've ordered the pizzas, 25 patients show up at the ER registration desk along with three ambulances all with cardiac arrests!
- For every action, there is an equal and opposite criticism.
- Ten seconds after you have finished giving a complete bed bath and changing the bed, the patient has a giant *code brown*.
- If a patient needs four pills, the packet will contain three.
- Your buddies who were reading the paper at the nurses' desk a minute ago always disappear when you need help ...
- Expect to get your pay raise the same day the hospital raises the parking rates (and other charges)
- The better job you do, the more work you can expect to be handed ...
- The amount of clean linen available is inversely proportional to your immediate needs.
- The more confused and impulsive a patient is, the less chance there is for a family member or friend to sit with the patient.
- The perfect nurse for the job will apply the day after that post is filled by some semi qualified idiot.
- If only one solution can be found for a problem, then it is usually a stupid solution.
- When the nurse on the preceding shift has surrounded the patient with absorbent pads, the *code brown* will hit every sheet and miss every pad.
- Rest assured that when you are in a hurry, the nurse's notes have not been written.
- When you are starting an IV on an uncooperative patient, or dealing with a huge *code brown*, there is a phone call for you and it's that crabby physician that you have been paging all morning.
- Fire drills always occur on your day from hell
- The first person in line when the clinic opens will not require urgent care. The sickest person will arrive 5 minutes before closing: "I thought I'd feel better"

- **The Nursing Catch-22:**

If you're running around horribly busy, you're unorganized and need to prioritize, but if you're not running around horribly busy, you're lazy and need to find more work to do.

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Heenan.

Thank you Andrew.

- You do the "Just discharged the Patient from Hell" dance only to turn around and find the Consultant Neuro-Psychiatrist looking at you like you're their next patient.

Sent by [Mark Dean](#)

- Last thing you want to hear a doctor say is 'whoops'

Sent by [Brian Breeden](#)