The International Journal of Whole Person Care

WHOLE PERSON CARE McGill

Must keep going

Kateryna Metersky

Volume 9, Number 2, 2022

Learning from one another in medical encounters

URI: https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1089934ar DOI: https://doi.org/10.26443/ijwpc.v9i2.311

See table of contents

Publisher(s)

McGill University Library

ISSN

2291-918X (digital)

Explore this journal

Cite this document

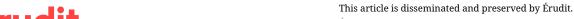
Metersky, K. (2022). Must keep going. *The International Journal of Whole Person Care*, 9(2), 33–35. https://doi.org/10.26443/ijwpc.v9i2.311

© Kateryna Metersky, 2022



This document is protected by copyright law. Use of the services of Érudit (including reproduction) is subject to its terms and conditions, which can be viewed online.

https://apropos.erudit.org/en/users/policy-on-use/



Érudit is a non-profit inter-university consortium of the Université de Montréal, Université Laval, and the Université du Québec à Montréal. Its mission is to promote and disseminate research.

https://www.erudit.org/en/

WHOLE PERSON CARE

VOLUME 9 ● NUMBER 2 ● 2022 ● 33-35

MUST KEEP GOING

Kateryna Metersky

Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing, Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada kateryna.metersky@ryerson.ca

KEYWORDS: Uncertainty; Perseverance; Fear; Strength; Nurse; Care; Patients

he came back after her third maternity leave
Between waves 1 and 2
Everything looked familiar but different

No hugs were allowed, just faint smiles and brief greetings

First patient assignment

COVID positive-patient #1

She searched for an N95, couldn't find one

They are all locked up now, too many stolen

No drinks allowed on the floor

Hair must be tied up and secured in a cap

No lunches with her colleagues allowed

A few weeks go by, COVID patient #1 becomes COVID patient #2 becomes a full COVID positive patient assignment

© 2022 Kateryna Metersky. This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons License CC BY.

International Journal of Whole Person Care Vol 9, No 2 (2022) The medicine unit becomes a COVID positive unit

Then they take in telemetry patients, outbreak #1

Back to medicine, then it's orthopedic patients, outbreak #2

Back to COVID positive, then medicine, outbreak #3, wave 3

Back to COVID positive current timeline unknown

Go get tested they say - negative

But two colleagues and a patient positive

Go again they say - negative

But more colleagues and patients positive

Variants of concern found - go get tested 3 times in one week they say

Nose bleeds from frequent testing

At least she's negative

But not the same for some colleagues and patients

Tired, exhausted, short staffed, teary eyed, on autopilot

Hungry, thirty, bladder stretched beyond belief

But she must keep going

Patients dying in her arms, no visitors allowed

New machinery, no time for training

Staff redeployed to other units, ICUs, others need more hands-on deck

But this unit is already so short staffed

Vaccine rollout begins, long lines, lack of supply, dosages extended, just waiting

Waiting for her turn to be protected

Must keep going

The fear of bringing this home to her little kids is overpowered by fear of the system collapse

So, she continues going

Shift by shift to connect with her nursing students who practice clinically

To learn how to teach the next generation of nurse leaders to be change agents in this new reality

To investigate what can be done to better the experience for all She keeps going

But most importantly she keeps going for each human being in need of assistance