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Let Nurses Be Nurses

What kind of nurse do you want? A registered nurse told me nursing has changed. The teamwork that she’s experienced over the years has diminished due to the more corporate environment of hospitals today where the emphasis is on completing tasks, documenting those tasks in the electronic health record, and making sure all the quality measurement checkboxes are checked.

Nurses are trained to care for patients, to be there in the scary moments, to answer the patient’s questions, and to care for the patient’s needs when they can least care for themselves. The movement of nursing to a task-based job doesn’t bode well for the caring mission of medicine. Sick, hurt, and dying patients need nurses to be nurses, not hourly hospital workers.