

International Nurses' & Midwives' Day 2014

- Short Story & Poetry Competition

Paperwork ... more Paperwork!

"Oh the Pain" shouts a patient,

A bell rings in room 4,

"Can you get that?" calls a colleague,

Dr. Smith's at the door.

My shift finished hours ago,

But I'm still here,

Doing paperwork ... *more paperwork*,

The pill trolley's near.

When I signed up for nursing, in 1983,

This is not how I thought it would turn out to be.

I wanted to care, for the patients ... you know,

The sick & the traumatised ... those feeling low.

Care & compassion, a kind word ... as required,

Now it's paperwork ... *more paperwork*,

Or ... you are **FIRED!**

Today being a nurse is about “covering your back”,
Threats of litigation, it’s as simple as that.
The hospital’s scared you might give the wrong pill,
But as nurses we care ... we’re *not licensed to kill*.

Basins of vomit & stinky diarrhoea,
We describe it in detail saying “*Don’t worry dear!*”
The written report covers “time, date & place”,
Perhaps a photo of this ... in report I could place!

An IV’s been pulled out,
Blood’s sprayed on the floor,
Quick ... put a sign up,
Warning “***Gunk’s on the Floor!***”

“Don’t slip in it, touch it or get it on skin”...
Says the sign I’ve constructed and had placed within.

Never mind the patient,
Still spurting & faint,
As long as the paperwork’s done ... I’m a saint.

But oh, dearie me She's died of blood loss,
Now a *new* report's required, to explain to the boss.

*"Dear Matron" it says ...
... "I've had a bad day,
Whilst writing up paperwork,
my patient, passed away!"*

*"It wasn't my fault" ... I started to sob,
"Because paperwork IS,
the main part of my job!"*

*"I'm sure that the family will quite understand,
How paperwork's more important,
Than the touch of a hand."*

*"Look on the bright side,"
I continued to write,
"No-one slipped in the blood ...
... my sign worked all right!"*

*"At least the hospital, will not be sued,"
"No one's injured by gunk" ... words from my pen spewed!*