So, I am a seeker.
I seek contentment through kindness.
I seek fulfillment through compassion.
I seek peace through the strength of tolerance and love.
—Lisa Jones Bromfield, RN, Emergency Department, Winchester Medical Center, Winchester, VA

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Patient Transportation

Dear Editor:

I read with interest the article by Chang et al1 concerning improving safety of critically ill patient transportation in the emergency department.

I recognized the same problems we addressed 25 years ago when I wrote “Design and Use of an ACLS Transport Cart” in the November/December 1985 issue of the Journal.2 Even after 25 years, some things never change, or change very little, and it appears that this group was “reinventing the wheel” so to speak, especially when discussing the need for a portable blood pressure monitor, ECG, pulse oximeter, oxygen tank, and “medications in a resuscitation bag.” If they were using an advanced cardiac life support transport cart, that stuff would already be in place and ready to go. We used to admit some critical patients directly to the cart, which saved moving them from gurney to gurney.—Kate Reeves, RN, MA, CHPN, Hospice Admissions Nurse, Visiting Nurses Association of the Inland Counties, Mountain Center, CA

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REFERENCES

Reply

We thank Kate Reeves for her interest in and favorable comments on our article about critically ill patient transportation from the emergency unit.1 We have read Kate Reeves’ report entitled “Design and Usage of an Advanced Cardiac Life Support Transport Cart”2 and understand the concepts she described. The benefits of the Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) transport cart for transporting critically ill patients are well known, and in addition to transportation equipment, transportation guidelines have also been well established.3 However, the incidence of mishaps during and in connection with patient transportation remains high according to the results of one recent study.4 Staff cannot resolve all problems related to critically ill patient transportation based on guidelines alone. The ACLS cart concept is only a part of the transportation process. We thank Kate Reeves for sharing her experience about designing an ACLS transport cart. In our experience, implementation guidelines, staff training, transport method design, and monitoring of the transport process also play important roles in the transportation of critically ill patients.—Yu-Nu Chang, AN, Head Nurse, Department of Nursing, Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Taichung, Taiwan; Li-Hua Lin, BN, Senior Technician, Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety Committee, Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Taichung, Taiwan; and Yen-Chun Peng, MD, Attending Physician, Division of Gastroenterology, Taichung Veterans General Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan

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