

# HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD



Popular television shows like *Grey's Anatomy* and *The Night Shift* often portray nurses as low-skilled assistants who simply carry out physician commands without evaluating them.

In reality, nurses are autonomous, college-educated health professionals. Of course they work *with* physicians, but they do not work *for* them. Nurses have their own unique scope of practice and they report to nurse managers, not physicians.

In fact, one key way nurses save lives is by catching errors in physician care plans. That is vital, since health care errors are the third leading cause of death in the U.S.!

And unlike most Hollywood nurses, real nurses take many other autonomous actions that save lives:

Nurses diagnose patients' wide-complex tachycardia, call a code, and defibrillate.

Emergency department nurses triage patients based on their own expert evaluation of who needs care first.

Nurses detect subtle symptoms of life-threatening infections and then intervene with high-tech treatments to prevent sepsis, shock and death.

Unfortunately, poor public understanding of nursing, fueled by media stereotypes, contributes to a lack of resources for nursing education, clinical practice, and research.

That can mean worse patient outcomes — including death.

Our future depends on nurses. Nurses depend on us to understand their true value.

A message from nurses everywhere.