

# Naughty

Today, images of nurses as mindless female sex objects still appear in advertising, television shows, music videos, and Halloween costumes.

Who cares? You should.

Individual nurses certainly don't object to being perceived as sexy. It suggests that they embody the same principles of exercise and healthy eating that they prescribe for patients.

But linking the nursing profession with female sexuality suggests that the work includes providing sexual services to patients and/or physicians. Of course, these images are "jokes" and fantasies. However, research shows that even such jokes affect how people think.

This stereotype discourages practicing and potential nurses, encourages sexual abuse in the workplace, and undermines nurses' claims to adequate resources for education, research, and clinical practice, all at a time of a global shortage.

This puts your life at risk. Unlike naughty nurses, real nurses save lives through skilled monitoring, high-tech treatments, strong advocacy, and patient education. Real nurses defibrillate your heart when it stops. But understaffing is a critical problem. With the resources that would come with more respect, nurses would more often be able to detect changes and intervene before you even needed defibrillation.

So please reconsider the naughty nurse.

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

A message from nurses everywhere.

