



Popular TV shows like *Grey's Anatomy*, *The Night Shift*, and *The Mindy Project* portray nurses as low-skilled physician helpers. Meanwhile, physician characters spend much of their time doing work done by nurses in real life.

Real nursing is exciting. Nurses are autonomous, college-educated health professionals. They save lives through skilled monitoring, high-tech treatments, strong advocacy, and patient education. A few examples:

Nurses found and run new health systems for underserved communities, providing care to patients confronting obesity, prenatal difficulties, violence, and substance abuse.

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

Nurses coordinate the care provided by other health professionals, including physicians, social workers, and physical therapists.

But 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.

