My Profession
by Marlon Caballero
as told to Shary Henniken

I'm in a bad mood.
I completely understand. There's nothing wrong with feeling that way.
I feel a little better now.

I had planned to go into research nursing when I got out of school....

...but during my orientation process, I began to appreciate the power of bedside nursing.

It's so important to keep patients clean and comfortable.

Now that I have completed orientation, I am expected to take charge and be more responsible for decisions about the patient's care.

I don't leave the floor to eat my meals.

I like to stay in a place where I can keep an eye on my patient as I eat.

Sometimes this kind of care can make the patients feel better than medication can.

A nurse is an important part of the multidisciplinary team.

How much urine did the patient put out overnight?

...and the creatinine levels?

Nurses must take the initiative to order certain tests, such as lab draws, Co-AG, or H&H.

If a patient's hemoglobin is down, we may need to give her blood products and monitor her heart rate.

On rounds, the doctors expect a report from each nurse with specific details of the patient's care.

In a critical care unit, waiting for a decision can cost precious seconds, and having test results ready saves the doctor's time as well.

So, the doctors value a nurse's opinion — a lot.