

our patients. We simply wanted to share these modifications with our colleagues and in no way intended to degrade the design or quality of the Ventil-Con.

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THE NEED TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

I enjoyed reading the article by Elaine Pritchard on patient care in the December *JNMT*. From my experiences in nuclear medicine, this is certainly the one area that nuclear medicine technologists most need to improve upon. I feel that nuclear medicine technologists have shown their interest in patient care by the rousing response to Karen Clark's lectures at the last two Society of Nuclear Medicine Annual Meetings. I hope that we

see more articles of this sort and that patient care lectures continue to be a part of our annual meetings.

I would also like to see patient care emphasized more in the training of nuclear medicine technologists. The American Medical Association's *Essentials of an Accredited Educational Program for the Nuclear Medicine Technologist* state that the nuclear medicine technologist "must understand and relate to the patient's concerns and fears about their illnesses and pending diagnostic procedures . . ." It also states that the content of an accredited program must include patient care. This requirement is usually taken care of by one or two lectures during the first week of a student's training. My training made me knowledgeable of the technology and science of nuclear medicine, but I'm still learning how to relate to sick and dying patients.

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