

Physician, Heel Thyself

It was morning rounds in the hospital and the entire medical team stood in the patient's room. A test result was late, and the patient, a friendly, middle-aged man, jokingly asked his doctor whom he should yell at.

Turning and pointing at the patient's nurse, the doctor replied, "If you want to scream at anyone, scream at her."

This vignette is not a scene from the medical drama "House," nor did it take place 30 years ago, when nurses were considered subservient to doctors. Rather, it happened just a few months ago, at my hospital, to me.

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