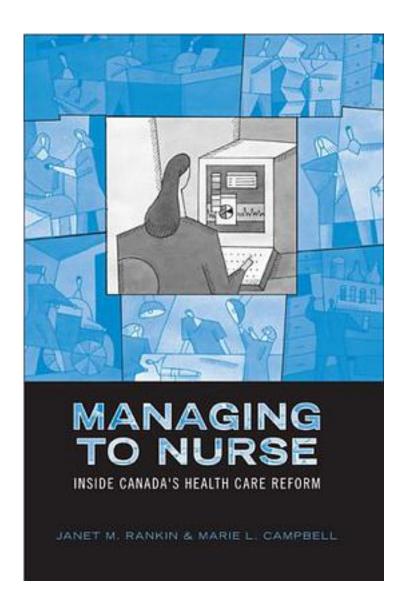
Managing to Nurse



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How does the contemporary restructuring of health care affect nursing practice? Increasingly since the 1970s, and more intensively under recent reforms, Canadian health care is the focus of information-supported, professionally based management. In Managing to Nurse, Janet M. Rankin and Marie L. Campbell probe the operation of this new form of hospital and its effect management on nurses and nursing. Written from the nurse's perspective, this institutional ethnography discovers a major transformation in the nature of nursing and associated patient care: the work is now organized according to an accounting logic that embeds a cost-orientation into care-related activities. Rankin and Campbell illustrate how nurses adapt to this new reality just as they, themselves, perpetuate it - how they learn to recognize their adaptations as professionally correct and as an adequate basis for nursing judgement. Although Managing to Nurse may contradict contemporary beliefs about health care reform, the insiders' account that it provides is undeniable evidence that nurses' caring work is being undermined and patient care is being eroded, sometimes dangerously, by current health care agendas

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