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		Review Date:	2022

Policy:	Students will not breach confidentiality or privacy with information they post via social media sites. Information covered under Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) or Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations may not be discussed on social media or any electronic communication. Information related to any patient you care for in a clinical setting may not be shared. Disposition Policy (5.37) may apply.
Purpose:	Breaches of patient confidentiality or privacy can be intentional or inadvertent and can occur in a variety of ways. Nurses need to be aware of the potential consequences of disclosing patient-related information via social media, and mindful of clinical institutions, relevant state and federal laws, and professional standards regarding patient privacy and confidentiality and its application to social and electronic media.
Procedure:	<p>The following are intended to minimize the risks of using social media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students must recognize that they have an ethical and legal obligation to maintain patient privacy and confidentiality at all times.</li> <li>• Students are strictly prohibited from transmitting by way of any electronic media any patient-related image. In addition, nurses are restricted from transmitting any information that may be reasonably anticipated to violate patient rights to confidentiality or privacy or otherwise degrade or embarrass the patient.</li> <li>• Students must not share, post or otherwise disseminate any information or images about a patient or information gained in the nurse/patient relationship with anyone unless there is a patient-care-related need to disclose the information or other legal obligations to do so.</li> <li>• Students must not identify patients by name, or post or publish information regarding patients. Limiting access to postings through privacy settings is not sufficient to ensure privacy.</li> <li>• Students must not refer to patients in a disparaging manner, even if the patient is not identified.</li> <li>• Students must not take photos or videos of patients on personal devices, including cell phones. Students working with faculty should follow clinical institutional policies for taking photographs or videos</li> </ul>

	<p>of patients for treatment or other legitimate purposes using institution-provided devices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student nurses must maintain professional boundaries in the use of electronic media. Like in-person relationships, the nurse has an obligation to establish, communicate and enforce professional boundaries with patients in the online environment. Online relationships with patients or former patients via social media are discouraged. Online contact with patients or former patients blurs the distinction between a professional and personal relationship. The fact that a patient may initiate contact with the nurse does not permit the nurse to engage in a personal relationship with the patient. Students must consult clinical institutional policies or an appropriate leader within the organization for guidance regarding work related postings.</li><li>• Students must promptly report any identified breach of confidentiality or privacy.</li><li>• Students must be aware of and comply with clinical institutional policies regarding the use of institution-owned computers, cameras and other electronic devices, and use of personal devices in the workplace.</li><li>• Students must not make disparaging remarks about the institution or its employees. Students must not make threatening, harassing, profane, obscene, sexually explicit, racially derogatory, homophobic or other offensive comments.</li><li>• Students must not post content or otherwise speak on behalf of the institution unless authorized to do so and must follow all applicable policies of the said institution.</li></ul>
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