HOSPITAL FOR SPECIAL CARE

STUDENT GUIDELINES FOR USE OF PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE CLINICAL SETTING

PURPOSE: To provide guidance to students participating in a clinical rotation at the Hospital for Special Care related to use of personal technology and social media in the patient care setting that does not compromise patient safety, violate patient privacy and confidentiality, or interfere with functioning of medical equipment.

GUIDELINES:

1. Students must adhere to the privacy regulations as stated in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). No individually identifiable information related to patients will leave the facility in which the student is working. This applies before, during and after completion of their clinical rotation at the Hospital for Special Care.

2. Students may not use personal technology devices, including cell phones, for talking, e-mailing, texting, and personal conversations, whether oral or digital, while in the clinical setting as defined as the patient care areas or units.
   2.1 Students may use these devices for this purpose in approved areas of the hospital such as the cafeteria or main lobby, outside their scheduled clinical time on the patient care unit.
   2.2 Personal technology devices should not contain identifiable patient information.

3. Students may use personal technology in the patient care area for researching an on-line or computer text reference or application for the purpose of patient care or research. However, such use should occur at least six feet from any technology at the bedside (e.g. patient ventilator or monitor) so as not to provide interference with the use of patient equipment.

4. Students may use the hospital internet/intranet resources with staff assistance to research patient related questions or conduct a literature search.

5. Students should not be utilizing the internet if unrelated to the clinical objectives and experience. Use of the hospital’s wi-fi is permitted using personal devices during breaks or outside of the clinical time.

Approved by Vice President, Patient Care Services/CNO
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6. Photocopying, scanning of patient medical records by students is not permitted.

7. Photographing, videotaping or “Skyping™” of patients by students is prohibited. Students are strictly prohibited from transmitting by any way of electronic media any patient-related image (NCSBN, 2011, p. 3). This would constitute a serious breach of HIPAA with serious consequences.

8. Students should never discuss or write about any clinical experiences, patients or the clinical location in any manner on social media sites such as Facebook®, blogs, Wikis®, video sites and on-line chat rooms or forums. Disparaging, threatening, profane, obscene, sexually explicit, racially derogatory, homophobic or other offensive remarks about the experience, co-workers, faculty or other students are prohibited (NCSBN, 2011).

9. Students are expected to maintain professional boundaries with patients and families in the use of electronic media. Online contact with patients or former patients blurs the distinction between a professional and personal relationship (ANA, 2011). The fact that a patient or family may initiate contact with the student does not permit the student to engage in a personal relationship with the patient or family (NCSBN, 2011).

10. Students have a responsibility to immediately report any potential breaches of confidentiality to their instructor. The instructor will bring the matter to the attention of the Hospital for Special Care Unit Manager.

Responsibility: Vice President, Patient Care Services/CNO

References:


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