

<b>USA CON Social Media and Use of Cell Phones/Electronic Devices in Clinical Setting Policy</b>	
Applicability: Undergraduate Students Graduate Students Faculty	Origination Date: 3.14.2014
	Last Approval Date: 4.1.2024
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	Date for next Review: TBD
	Review Assigned to: <i>Academic Affairs</i>

**Policy:** Statement regarding the use of smart phones, social networking sites, and other online applications.

**Purpose:** Social and business networking sites (For example, including but not limited to, LinkedIn, Facebook, X, Flickr, YouTube, Instagram, Snap Chat, and others) are increasingly used for instant and far reaching communication. Online venues allow for greater collaboration but can also contribute to crossing privacy, confidentiality, and professional boundaries. Privacy and confidentiality between health care providers and the patient is imperative; access to sensitive and legally protected health information must be safeguarded from unlawful or inappropriate release that could compromise the patient, health care providers, and the University. Unprofessional behavior may impair the health care provider's ability to become licensed, practice, and/or participate in a position of trust/responsibility in the community. The intent of this policy is refer to specific course policies and the syllabus for the course. The phone use policy of each course. If the use of cell phones in the clinical setting is permitted:

Personal calls or other forms of communication (including text messaging, instant messaging via social media applications, etc.) shall not be initiated and/or received in patient care areas, public service areas (including cafeterias), or other areas where patient care is provided (including inpatient units).

- b. The use of personal electronic devices, i.e. MP3 players, DVD players, cell phone entertainment features, cell phone texting, personal laptop, etc., are not allowed on patient care areas, public service areas, or within view of patients or visitors. All smartwatches must be set to Airplane Mode during the clinical rotation.
  
- c. Devices must

- j. Do not post any content that is inappropriate. Inappropriate content includes, but is not limited to, material that is obscene, defamatory, profane, libelous, threatening, harassing, abusive, hateful, or embarrassing to another person or entity.
- k. Students are expected to follow all policies as outlined by the USA College of Nursing and clinical facilities regarding the use of technology.

### **Patient Information**

Identifiable protected health information (PHI) must never be posted on the Internet. This applies even if no one other than a patient is able to identify him/herself from the posted information. Health care providers must adhere to all Health Information Patient Privacy Act (HIPPA) principles. Patient images may be obtained and transmitted only with written consent per the host facility policy. Patient images may only be obtained and transmitted on institutional equipment and never on personal equipment.

### **Providing Medical Advice**

Medical advice on a social networking site should never be provided.

### **Privacy Settings**

Health care providers should considerprant

Although many social media applications have been shown effective in the