## Professionalism and Social Media

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One of the key changes in last decade is the emergence of social media networks. Today, social media networks like Facebook and Intsagram have tremendous reach. People from different sections of the society and with different views are present on these social media networks. There are some people who use these social media networks for personal purpose and some use these for professional purpose. Today, organizations also use social media networks to create individual profile of interview candidates. It is important that nurses should understand the role of social media in their lives (Dietze & Knowles, 2016). The objective of this paper is to identify and discuss the key items on my social media networks that can be considered unprofessional and potentially detrimental to my career.

**Inappropriate Posts based on Professional Standards of Nursing**

 I am not an avid social media user; however, I do use some of the social media networks like Facebook and Instagram. I always try to be professional on these networks, as I do not want other people to get a wrong impression about me. However, there can be times when I will also open up and share my personal details over social media. One of the conversations that I remember was on a Facebook group where people were discussing about abortion. I also decided to contribute and put my views there. Later I realized that people could relate my personal view with my area of work. As nurse, we should not influence patients to take their decision. I understand that we should always respect patients’ autonomy. In this case, some readers might think that these are the views of a nurse rather than an individual. Therefore, I deleted my post as soon as I realize this.

**Nurses Responsibility to Uphold Standards**

 Nursing is not an easy profession and we have to follow number of practices and standards. Nurses have the responsibility to uphold key standards as life of number of patients depends on nurses. In the health care system, nurses are a key stakeholders that have to work hand in hand with other stakeholders. HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) focuses on three type of safeguards of administrative, physical and technical (McKnight, & Franko, 2016). The administrative safeguard suggests that employees must not share ant internal information outside. This can be violated by the personal conduct like taking a selfie with patient and then sharing it on Facebook. The use of personal social media accounts to interact with patients is also unprofessional and nurses should avoid doing it (Valenduc, 2016).

**Social Media Activity and Christian Values**

 I can say that my participation in various discussions and debates over social media channels present my Christian values. On these discussions, I always try to spread the principles of human dignity and common good. One of the areas of improvement for me would be to reduce the number of photographs that I put online. I always fear if I am not putting any photograph that violates privacy.

**Conclusion**

 In this era, social media is a powerful tool. However, it must be used wisely. For nurses, it is important to understand the workplace guidelines with respect to the use of social media. The key thing for nurses is to understand the fine line between personal space and professional space over social media channels.

References

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