
TOPIC:

Confidentiality

Confidentiality and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) relates to all forms of communication. Students will maintain confidentiality of all patient information throughout the educational process in the program. Patient information is only to be used in structured learning settings as directed by the instructor and other healthcare professionals.

Nurses are ethically committed to

A nonjudgmental attitude

Honesty

Protecting the confidentiality and right to privacy of the client.

Clients often confide highly personal information to nurses, trusting them not to divulge the information carelessly. Nurses must learn to weigh the relevance of such information against the current clinical condition of the client before revealing any data to coworkers or other students. When in doubt, the student may consult with the nursing instructor about the nature or disclosure of confidential information.

Simulation information is also required to be held in strict confidence. It must not be repeated or discussed with anyone outside of the Simulation. Occurrences in Simulation reflect patient care experiences. No information about a Simulation scenario may be shared outside of clinical.

Communication outside the clinical facility will contain no identifying information.

Verbal Communication

It is the responsibility of each student to avoid discussion of patient information with anyone other than the personnel directly involved in the client's care.

Clinical information should only be shared with other nursing students in structured activities as directed by the clinical instructor.

Patient information should not be exchanged in public access areas, including elevators, cafeterias, lobbies, hallways, social media, etc.

Patient Medical Records

The medical record is the property of the hospital and includes the paper medical record as well as any information on the computer.

The medical record should be kept in an appropriate area on the nursing unit and only reviewed where other patients or visitors have no access to the private information.

If the student accompanies the patient away from the unit, the medical record

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should remain in their possession or given to an appropriate staff member.
There is to be no photocopying of any part of the medical record.

If specific agencies allow printing of certain patient information from computer records, all identifying information should be blackened out before leaving the nursing unit.

Any patient/clinical notes written by the student will be shredded at the end of the day.

Indiscriminate use of confidential information is

- Unethical
- Unprofessional
- Illegal

There are times when certain details of a client's history may be shared for medical or educational purposes.

Nursing faculty recognize the professional role is difficult and developing a sense of judgment takes practice over a period of time. If the nursing student unintentionally breeches confidentiality, the student will be given a warning. Repeated unintentional breeches or intentional breeches will be dealt with more severely up to and including dismissal from the program. Depending on the nature of the breach, appropriate remedial action will be initiated.

Social Media

Cloud County Community College supports the use of technology inside and outside the classroom. This support includes the use of social media communication formats such as Facebook and the Cloud Now Ap. This support comes with the expectation that students in Cloud programs will uphold the ethical standards of their prospective professions and professional behavior is expected of nursing students. This includes situations off-campus and in "virtual" sites, such as on-line social networking sites. Professional demeanor is required of students in cyberspace in the same manner it is required in all other settings. Students must keep in mind that behavior that is illegal or a violation of college or nursing program procedures will be illegal or violate school policy if it appears online. This includes, but is not limited to, email communications, texting, messaging, or social networking sites. While it is not the practice of the nursing faculty to routinely monitor any student's web sites, if inappropriate postings are brought to their attention the faculty will investigate the report.