

Mobile devices and the software that accompanies them provide nursing students with access to information that will enhance their ability to provide safe, quality care.

Therefore, starting in May 2012, The University of Akron College of Nursing will require all basic and accelerated BSN students to use a mobile device equipped with a nursing reference software package.

The American Nurses Association (ANA) and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) have established guidelines that relate to the use of mobile devices.

“Nurses” should be understood to include licensed practicing nurses as well as nursing students, who are being prepared by the College to become practicing nurses and as such will be held to these standards of practice.

1. Nurses must not transmit or place online individually identifiable patient information.
2. Nurses must observe ethically prescribed professional patient – nurse boundaries.
3. Nurses should understand that patients, colleagues, institutions, and employers may view postings.
4. Nurses should take advantage of privacy settings and seek to separate personal and professional information online.
5. Nurses should bring content that could harm a patient’s privacy, rights, or welfare to the attention of appropriate authorities.
6. Nurses should participate in developing institutional policies governing online conduct.

1. First and foremost, nurses must recognize that they have an ethical and legal obligation to maintain patient privacy and confidentiality at all times.
2. Nurses are strictly prohibited from transmitting by way of any electronic media any patient-related information.

6. Do not take photos or videos of patients on personal devices, including cell phones. Follow

- x Verbal or written warning with documentation placed in the student's file for review by the Admissions and Progressions Committee and "FYI" notification to Student Judicial Affairs as appropriate.
- x Referral to Student Judicial Affairs as appropriate.
- x Dismissal from the clinical and referral to the director, coordinator, and course faculty.
- x Evaluation by the Admissions and Progressions Committee for dismissal from the program.
- x If student is licensed, report to the State Board of Nursing as appropriate and according to law and rule.

American Nurses Association. (2011). Navigating the world of social media. Retrieved October 27, 2011, from <http://www.nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/AboutANA/Social-Media/Social-Networking-Principles-Toolkit/Navigating-the-World-of-Social-Media.aspx>

National Council of State Boards of Nursing. (2011). White paper: A nurse's guide to the use of social media. Retrieved October 27, 2011, from [https://www.ncsbn.org/Social\\_Media.pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/Social_Media.pdf)