

Social Media Guidelines

Disclaimer: The following are guidelines that were approved by the Medical Student Council to help advise students regarding how to appropriately interact with social media with regards to the Medical School Professionalism Code. These guidelines are not official policy of the Medical School. Any potential violation of the following guidelines may be referred to the Peer Review Committee who is responsible for deciding if an incident is in violation of the Medical School Professionalism Code.

- Do not discuss patients in an identifiable manner. This includes protected HIPAA information (protected health information – definition per Wikipedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protected_health_information), as well as unique characteristics, such as a rare disease or high profile traumas. Be aware of time stamps & location data as well. If someone else taking care of the patient could identify them by what you are posting, it is most likely too much information.
- Be aware that each clinical site may have individual policies by which you must abide.
- Demonstrate respect toward others. As such, do not use derogatory language about fellow students, residents, attendings, other health care staff, patients, etc.
- Do not post any photographs of/from protected areas (of patients, cadaver lab, test questions/answer, etc.).
- Do not discuss [secure exam content](#) unless clearly authorized do so by an instructor
- Avoid venting online. Always think about what you are posting before you do so.
- Consider making school-related groups on social media private and continue to demonstrate professional conduct with your peer group. Although, it is important to remember that nothing on the internet is “private”. By its nature any social media site is a public forum, regardless of privacy settings, etc.
- Do not “friend/follow” patients you only know in a clinical context.
- Remember that you are always a representative of the University of Minnesota Medical School
- You have the right to free speech; however, in order to foster a community of professionalism, you and your peers are encouraged to hold one another accountable. Approach one another professionally, and where appropriate, personally.

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