

Wireless Telecommunications Device

The Texas Emergency Nurses Association recognizes that the Wireless Telecommunications Device (WTD) is a part of the professional nursing culture in today's environment. The purpose of this statement is to establish the expectations and standards of behavior related to the use of Wireless Telecommunication Devices.

Wireless Telecommunications Device (WTD) is in reference to any device that makes or receives phone calls, leaves messages, sends text messages, capable of browsing the internet, or downloads and allows for the reading of and responding to email.

Patient privacy is a fundamental ethical and legal obligation of nurses. Nurses must observe standards of client privacy and confidentiality at all times and in all environments. The nurse's primary commitment is to the client.

Every nurse should adhere to the policy of the workplace regarding the Wireless Telecommunication Device. If the policy states that no Wireless Telecommunication Device is to be used, then the workplace responsibility is to provide tools (i.e. calculator, medication formulary, drug reference etc.) for health care worker use. The tools provided should be readily available and each staff person educated to access and use the software tools provided by the workplace.

If the workplace has no policy, the emergency nurse must exercise judicious use of the Wireless Telecommunication Device and be aware of professional boundaries and violations, always protecting client privacy.

It is the position of the Texas Emergency Nurses Association that:

1. Emergency Nurses must be responsible and accountable for their own actions.
2. Emergency Nurse actions should not entail personal and/or professional gain at the expense of the client.
3. Emergency Nurses have the responsibility to maintain client privacy (i. e. unauthorized disclosure of information), dignity, and confidentiality per the Health Insurance Portability and the Accountability Act.

Resources:

American Nurses Association (ANA): Principles for Social Networking and the Nurse-Guidance for Registered Nurses Silver Spring, Maryland (2011)

American Nurses Association: Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements, (2010)

Emergency Nurses Association: Position Statement-Autonomous Emergency Nursing Practice (2005)

Emergency Nurses Association: Scope of Emergency Nursing Practice. (1999)

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

Texas Board of Nursing: Rules and Regulations (2011)

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Position Statement
