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Orientation

Welcome to
Upstate University Hospital!

Knowing changes everything.™



Clinical Ethics at University Hospital

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3 things to know

1. How ethics consults work at UH
2. Particular policies you need to know
3. Current hot issues: the EHR & social media

facebook 



Epic

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1. Ethics Consults

- Help ID and think through options, consequences, in light of ethics, policy, legal constraints, etc.
- Can help mediate, if desired, but we are **not** the decision makers (those directly involved are)
- Formal consults documented in EHR; also willing to speak confidentially
- Available 7d/week, both campuses, call operator

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2. Policies you need to know

- NY is a VERY regulated state. Many ethical issues have specific NY law, including:
 - Informed consent
 - Medical decisions at end of life
 - Health Care Proxies
 - Confidentiality, including HIV testing and disclosure (sanctions for disclosing HIV status to family: **don't assume they know!**)
 - Staff Rights to non-participation in health care
 - Treatment of the developmentally disabled

- Policies available online:

upstate.edu → [iPage](#) → [Policies/Forms](#) → [search for keyword](#)

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3. Current hot issues

- EHR
 - over-documenting
 - sharing passwords
- Social Media
 - Posting info on patients, **EVEN IF DEIDENTIFIED**, is a setup for ethical, professional, & legal problems

Spectrum workers fired over Facebook picture

WZZM 13 Staff, WZZM 13 9:19 p.m. EDT August 29, 2013

GRAND RAPIDS (WZZM) – Several employees at Spectrum Health have been terminated over a picture posted on Facebook.

A source tells WZZM 13 News that an off-duty employee was in the emergency room when he saw an attractive female. He took a picture of her back side and posted it on Facebook. His message read, "I like what I like." The woman was not identified and her face could not be seen.

Danielle Leek teaches social media at Grand Valley State University. She says people have to be careful about what they post, even if the person isn't named. "Even though that might seem irrelevant to us, it can still be identifying to other people, especially to audiences on social media."

The employee who posted the picture was fired and so was everyone that liked it.

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Questions? Ideas to improve things?

- Feel free to contact me
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- For more info about bioethics at SUNY Upstate,
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