



NUMBER	<i>04-10</i>
DATE	<i>8/24/10</i>
SUBJECT	<i>Social Networking</i>

PURPOSE

Encourage EMS Providers refraining from posing information or photos regarding calls, patients, or situations related to EMS operations.

BACKGROUND

The use of internet posting mechanisms, such as blogs, personal websites, social networking sites (face book, twitter, etc.) and others has become common among all age groups. Although EMS providers are cognizant of the need to avoid posting any patient identifiers which would constitute clear HIPPA violations, there are dangers of posting more subtle, identified information. Because it is impossible to anticipate who might view a post, such as someone with a connection to a patient, even the most generic or subtle reference to any EMS incident has the possibility of being linked to the actual case, or of being mistakenly linked to a different patient.

LIMITATIONS

Providers should NEVER engage in internet posting or blogging regarding patient care. Our Patients not only trust EMS Providers with their lives, but also their privacy. Violations of this trust may be interpreted as professional misconduct

Questions can be directed to the EMS Program Agency

REFERENCES

None