

Revised

November 2014

I. Statement of Policy:

Confidential communication in nursing situations is a principal tenet of the nursing code of ethics. A nursing student has a clear moral obligation to maintain confidentiality regarding information acquired about patients, their families, physicians and hospital employees. Information acquired while working in the hospital is to be discussed only in accordance with nursing practice responsibilities, and in accordance with HIPAA Guidelines and Nursing Practice Guidelines.

II. Scope: All nursing students and faculty.

III. Procedure :

A. All students are required to be familiar with all Standards of Nursing Conduct, which includes the following statement regarding confidentiality:

“All nurses shall safeguard the patient’s dignity, the right to privacy and the confidentiality of patient information” (Pennsylvania Code, Title 49 Professional and Vocational standards, 21.18).

B. In addition, the U.S. Department of Human and Health services issued the Privacy Rule to implement the requirement of the Health Insurance Portability and accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). The Privacy Rule establishes a set of national standards for the protection of certain health information. Students will be required to participate in HIPAA training during orientation at the hospital and when otherwise specified.

C. Students who knowingly violate patient confidentiality may fail the course or be involuntarily withdrawn from the program. In addition, clinical facilitates reserve the right to terminate any student’s clinical experience if the student does not abide by the facility’s policies related to HIPAA requirements,

D. When stepping away from a computer that is displaying Protected Health Information (PHI), the student will log off the system or secure it. No hard copies of patient information will be removed from the clinical site without permission of the faculty member. If documents are removed they will be free from any patient/resident names or any other identifying information.

E. Confidential information is only to be shared in confidential areas with direct healthcare providers and faculty. All conversations should be kept as low as reasonably possible.