

U and Universal:

Social Media can be an extremely powerful tool for communicating information, creating professional connections and sharing experiences. There are now over 800 million people on social networks so it's not surprising that HIPAA violations are on the rise. Remember that HIPAA compliance is an on-going part of our jobs. Here is some information about HIPAA and the use of social media:

- Do not share photographs, videos or any information that identifies the person served or their families. (identifying information requires written consent from the guardian or from the person if they are their own guardian).
- Do not share seemingly innocent comments or pictures without consent.
- Do not post "gossip".

Here are some myths about social media:

- The belief that communication is private and accessible only to the intended recipient.
- The belief that once something is deleted it is no longer accessible (the moment something is posted it lives on a server).
- The belief that its ok to post comments as long as you don't use a name, but rather referred to by a nickname or diagnosis.

If you have any doubt about a certain post, discuss it with your supervisor first.

This and more information concerning social media and HIPAA can be found at: www.healthcarcompliancepros.com

Did you know?

The Universal Winston office has moved.

The New address is:

210 Northgate Park Drive

Winston-Salem NC 27106

Terry Bedford

Assistant State Training Director

Universal MH/DD/SAS

www.umhs.net