



Position of The Seychelles Nurses & Midwives Council

Communication in Nursing - The Social Media

Communication is a fundamental element in the provision of care as the nurse/midwife has to exchange information with colleagues, patients and the multidisciplinary team. However, nurses and midwives have a professional responsibility which binds them ethically and legally, wherever they function. Since the different modes of communication have evolved over the years, nurses have to be aware of possible risks, if they act unlawfully or unethically.

Electronic devices when used effectively to exchange information, whether spoken, written or digitally can be beneficial in care provision at all levels, but on the other hand inappropriate usage can have negative impact on the caregiver, the patient, relatives and the profession. It is reminded that our responsibility as professionals have not changed whether we are communicating physically or by electronic means as the same rules and regulation will apply.

Nevertheless, intimidating others, sharing of confidential information and pictures, on social media are not the acceptable standards of communication in nursing and midwifery. It is reminded that, The Nurses and Midwives Regulation, Part IV, Rules of Conduct, Section 13(b) states that, it shall be the duty of every nurse to uphold and enhance the good reputation of the profession. It is important, therefore, that individual nurses and midwives acquaint themselves with the current channel of communication to settle their dismays and grievances. This applies whether you are employed in private or government services, as our accountability as a registered nurse or midwife does not change.

The Council encourages nurses/ midwives to review their codes of ethics, conduct and the rules governing the practice of nursing and midwifery and seek further guidance as and when necessary. The Council will have to investigate cases of allegation where there is evidence of any breach of professional code of practice and conduct.