



January 15, 2018

MEMORANDUM

All License Levels of EMS Personnel
Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

EMS Personnel:

I am writing to remind our system participants of the existence and the main points of the SIREMS Social Media Policy. The Social Media Policy, protocol A-22, was adopted in March 2012. The intention of the policy is to allow the flow of appropriate and useful information under applicable state and federal laws, while helping to avoid claims of HIPAA violations, invasion of privacy, breach of confidentiality, defamation, and slander.

Below are some key points to remember when using social media.

- No information should be posted about any patient related incidents that could possibly reveal protected health information (PHI). Best to avoid posting about calls, period.
- Nothing disparaging should be posted about SIREMS system participants. (hospitals, services, departments, or employees)
- Nothing disparaging should be posted about race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or national origin.
- No information should be posted about illegal behavior or sexually explicit content.
- SIREMS participants should exercise sound judgement and common sense when posting on social media.
- SIREMS participants should not engage in social networking activities during patient care activities.

Please feel free to contact me or the EMS Office with any questions or concerns about the social media policy.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Haake MD'.

Joseph R. Haake, MD, FACEP
EMS Medical Director
Southern Illinois Regional EMS System