



Nursing staff using personal mobile phones for work purposes

Acknowledgements

Introduction

Mobile technology, in particular the mobile phone,

What should nursing staff be aware of?

There are a number of issues to be taken into account if nursing staff do use their personal mobile phones for work-related purposes. RCN guidance on these issues is detailed in this document.

1. Employer's policy

The majority of NHS and other health and social care employers have policies relating to where and when mobile phones can be used at work. There may be restrictions on what areas of health premises mobile phones can be used in; on use of cameras and videos incorporated into mobile phones; and on personal use of mobile phones by staff while on duty. This is to: prevent interference with the functioning of certain medical equipment; to protect patient privacy and dignity; and to avoid the nuisance factor of mobile phone related noise (Department of Health, 2009). There may also be safety risks if staff use unapproved electrical equipment to charge their own phones at work.

The RCN advises that nursing staff should adhere to their employer's policy on mobile phone use. If usage of their own mobile phones for work purposes is a regular occurrence this should be raised with their manager to explore other options, such as supplying an approved mobile phone.

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3. Staff safety

When telephoning or texting, the sender's number is available to the recipient. Nursing staff using their own mobile phones for this purpose could be putting themselves at risk of receiving unsolicited communications unless they are able to, and action, withholding their number.

Under health and safety law an employer has a duty to assess the risks to nursing staff working alone and to put in place measures to reduce those risks. This includes providing lone workers with a means of raising the alarm if they are in danger or need urgent assistance (HSE, 2013, NHS Protect 0 Tc 0 Tw 911.49c ts a sist

6. Trustworthiness of software

The number of health and social care apps is growing exponentially, and an increasing number of nurses use apps on their mobile phones to help them perform their day-to-day clinical duties (Mobasher, 2015). The RCN recognises that there are many reliable and trustworthy sources or downloadable applications that can enhance

References

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