The Student Doctor Network

A nonprofit educational organization

SDN Social Media Policy

The Student Doctor Network (SDN) takes very seriously the subjects of accuracy, privacy and copyright protection as they relate to social media and the free-flowing exchange of ideas and opinions.

Fundamentally, SDN believes that an open forum, allowing the free exchange of ideas and opinions, is the best method of preserving a community dedicated to professional development and support of the healthcare student and practitioner.

Trustworthy
While SDN strives to be a professional, accurate and educational resource for health professionals and students, it recognizes that forums, blogs and social media sites require maintenance and regular oversight to achieve these goals. To this end, more than 100 volunteer professionals regularly scan and moderate SDN forums to ensure the information and topics comply with membership standards and that the information is professional and ethical.

Although the collegial nature of these forums lend themselves well as a natural social network similar to Facebook®, the site strives to be similar to Wikipedia® in terms of moderated content and more like LinkedIn® as a professional-level social media site. SDN staff and members have found that formal moderation through a network of dedicated, volunteer professionals and informal moderation through the existing user community to be an effective tool in promptly eliminating misinformation and inaccuracies.

Privacy
The privacy controls SDN maintains to protect members include the following:
- SDN is a TRUSTe certified site, meaning that SDN meets or exceeds industry standard privacy requirements as verified by TRUSTe.
- SDN also complies with the Health on the Net code of conduct, HONcode.

- Both the TRUSTe and HONcode certifications are reviewed and renewed annually.
- All volunteers and staff sign a non-disclosure agreement to ensure they do not inappropriately use or release member information.
- Membership ID Numbers replace member names on the forums when viewed by unregistered users, bots and spiders.
- We also maintain privacy controls that allow members to choose what they want to display on their profiles.

Copyright Protection
Any SDN member may report a post that violates the terms of service, including copyright violations. SDN follows the standards set out in the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. Additionally, we maintain relationships with testing organizations to eliminate copyright violations as they arise. Our moderator staff often address issues within minutes of posting. We also provide methods to allow inappropriate comments within our Interview Feedback and School Feedback systems to be reported and removed as needed.

The goal of this site is to provide free and unbiased information in a safe and informative environment to assist and encourage all students through the challenging and complicated healthcare education process. We encourage members to offer feedback through our forum moderators to ensure SDN remains true to its mission and goals.