

Confidentiality Policy for Parish Nurse

Confidentiality or the right to privacy is the right of every patient, particularly in the arena of personal health information. As a registered nurse, the parish nurse is aware of that right and acknowledges that right. The parish nurse also respects that right in the context of working with individuals and groups in this faith community. As a parish nurse he/she will agree with and act according to the points listed:

-Medical/health information shared by a parishioner will be kept in strict confidence, and will be shared only with that person's prior approval.

-Medical/health information will only be discussed with the parishioner, unless permission is given by that individual (or their legal proxy) to discuss that information with others and only those designated by the parishioner/legal proxy. The parishioner/proxy will be asked to give this permission in writing.

- Medical/health information is confidential and will not be discussed with other congregational members, staff or the family/friends of the parish nurse.

-Any written medical/health information will be stored in a secure area (i.e. a locked file cabinet) with access only to the parish nurse.

-Breach of confidentiality may result in discontinuance of the nurse in the Parish Nurse ministry.

(The American Nurses Association Scope and Standards of Practice for Faith Community Nursing will be the guide for the practice of the parish nurse. The Scope of Faith Community Nursing Practice is specific to this specialty but builds on the scope of practice expected of all registered nurses)