Personal Smartphone Technology Use at the Bedside: Ethically Speaking, do the Pro’s Outweigh the Con’s?

Sally J. Spooner, DHS, MSN, RN
Nova Southeastern University
Ft. Myers, Florida

The nursing profession is seeing a changing of the guard. As the Baby Boomer generation retires, the Millennial generation continues to replace them at the bedside. With the continued evolution of technology and a generational change within the profession of nursing, the literature reveals concerns that millennials may not act ethically in using the technology that they have grown dependent upon. Technology is a major component of the Millennial lifestyle. They are rarely without their smartphones and their need to be connected to social networks raises concerns. Concerns focus on: breaches of patient confidentiality, patient privacy and distractions that could cause novice nurse to neglect or to cause harm to patients. Authors note Millennials expertise with smartphone technology. One thing is certain, technology continues to evolve as surely as the Millennial generation continues to replace the Baby Boomer generation at the bedside. This presentation will look at the pros and cons of technology and the perceptions of millennial nursing students about their smartphones.