

Appendix 1- Survey Instrument

We are interested in your attitudes toward online social networking websites. Online social networks are sites on the internet which allow individuals to establish accounts, share information about themselves, and interact with others. There are a wide variety of social networking sites; some examples include Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, and LinkedIn . Please tell us the degree to which you agree or disagree with these statements below. If you have not heard of these sites or do not use them regularly, please answer the questions accordingly and proceed to the next section.

In your opinion...	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
1) It is ethically acceptable for physicians to visit the online profiles of patients within personal online social networking sites.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
2) It is ethically acceptable for physicians to interact (e.g. exchange personal messages) with patients within personal online social networking sites for social reasons.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
3) It is ethically acceptable for physicians to interact with patients within online social networking sites as part of patient care.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
4) Online social networking sites have potential for improving doctor-patient communication.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
5) Communication with patients within online social networking sites can be safely accomplished without compromising patient confidentiality.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆

Next, we are interested in the extent to which you use online social networking websites.

6. Have you ever used social networking sites?

₁ Yes

₂ No **—————> Skip to question 22 on page 4**

7. If so, which ones? (check all that apply)

₁ Facebook

₂ Twitter

₃ MySpace

₄ Friendster

₅ LinkedIn

₆ Other (please list) _____

8. How often do you use social networking sites?

- ₁ At least once daily
- ₂ several times per week
- ₃ Once weekly
- ₄ several times per month
- ₅ less than once per month
- ₆ I don't use them anymore **→ Skip to question 13**
(please explain why) _____

9. Typically, do you use online social networking for:

- ₁ Personal use only
- ₂ Both personal and professional use
- ₃ Professional use only **→ Skip to question 11**
- ₄ Other (please explain) _____

10. Is your *personal* social networking profile:

- ₁ Completely public (i.e. anyone can see your entire profile)
- ₂ Limited public access (i.e. strangers are able to see some information, but not all of your profile)
- ₃ Completely private (i.e. only those you accept as friends can view your profile)
- ₄ Don't know
- ₅ Other (please specify) _____

Please tell us the degree to which you agree or disagree with the statements below.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
11) I consider my social networking profile to be located in a public and openly viewable space.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆
12) My online social networking profile contains only information that I would be willing to share with patients.	<input type="checkbox"/> ₁	<input type="checkbox"/> ₂	<input type="checkbox"/> ₃	<input type="checkbox"/> ₄	<input type="checkbox"/> ₅	<input type="checkbox"/> ₆

Now we are interested in the extent to which you have had any interactions with patients or family members of patients within online social networking sites. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability given your experience with online social networks:

13. Have you ever visited the profile of a patient or patient's family member on a social networking site?

- ₁ Yes, a patient's profile
- ₂ Yes, a family member's profile
- ₃ Yes, both
- ₄ No **→ Skip to question 15**

14. Typically, what is the reason for visiting a patient's or family member's profile?

- ₁ To gather information for patient care
- ₂ To interact socially
- ₃ Other (please explain) _____

15. Have you ever been aware of a patient or family member of a patient visiting your personal social networking site?

- ₁ Yes, a patient
- ₂ Yes, a family member
- ₃ Yes, both
- ₄ No

Within social networking sites, one often has to obtain permission from another person in order to have access to their online profile. This process is referred to as “friending,” and those who have been granted permission to view your profile are referred to as “friends.” These questions refer to situations in which you may have interacted as a “friend” with a patient or their family member on a social network.

16. Have you ever received a “friend” request on a personal social networking site from a patient or their family member?

- ₁ Yes, from a patient
- ₂ Yes, from a family member
- ₃ Yes, from both
- ₄ No **—————→ Skip to question 19**

17. Approximately how many times have you received a “friend” request from a patient or their family member?

From a patient	From a family member
<input type="checkbox"/> _{1a} never	<input type="checkbox"/> _{1b} never
<input type="checkbox"/> _{2a} once	<input type="checkbox"/> _{2b} once
<input type="checkbox"/> _{3a} 2-5 times	<input type="checkbox"/> _{3b} 2-5 times
<input type="checkbox"/> _{4a} 6-10 times	<input type="checkbox"/> _{4b} 6-10 times
<input type="checkbox"/> _{5a} >11 times	<input type="checkbox"/> _{5b} >11 times

18. Do you accept “friend” requests from patients or their family members?

From a patient	From a family member
<input type="checkbox"/> _{1a} yes, always	<input type="checkbox"/> _{1b} yes, always
<input type="checkbox"/> _{2a} sometimes, but I decide on a <i>case-by-case</i> basis	<input type="checkbox"/> _{2b} sometimes, but I decide on a <i>case-by-case</i> basis
<input type="checkbox"/> _{3a} no, never	<input type="checkbox"/> _{3b} no, never

19. Have you ever requested to be a “friend” with a patient or their family member on a social networking site?

- ₁ Yes, with a patient
- ₂ Yes, with the family member of a patient
- ₃ Yes, with both
- ₄ No **—————→ Skip to question 22**

20. Approximately how many times have you requested to be a “friend” with a patient or their family member?

With a patient	With a family member
<input type="checkbox"/> _{1a} never	<input type="checkbox"/> _{1b} never
<input type="checkbox"/> _{2a} once	<input type="checkbox"/> _{2b} once
<input type="checkbox"/> _{3a} 2-5 times	<input type="checkbox"/> _{3b} 2-5 times
<input type="checkbox"/> _{4a} 6-10 times	<input type="checkbox"/> _{4b} 6-10 times
<input type="checkbox"/> _{5a} >11 times	<input type="checkbox"/> _{5b} >11 times

21. Do they generally accept the "friend" request?

Patients	Family members
<input type="checkbox"/> _{1a} yes, always	<input type="checkbox"/> _{1b} yes, always
<input type="checkbox"/> _{2a} sometimes	<input type="checkbox"/> _{2b} sometimes
<input type="checkbox"/> _{3a} no, never	<input type="checkbox"/> _{3b} no, never

Please give us some background information.

22. What is your level of training?

₁ Attending physician

₂ Resident/intern/fellow

₃ Medical Student → Skip to question 26

23. What is your primary specialty? _____

24. Primary practice type:

₁ Academic

₂ Private practice

₃ Mix private practice/academic

₄ Other (please list) _____

25. Primary practice setting:

₁ Urban

₂ Suburban

₃ Rural

26. What year did you or will you graduate from medical school? _____

27. What is your gender:

₁ Female

₂ Male

28. What is the year of your birth? _____

Please feel free to share any stories of patient encounters within social networks or any other comments regarding this study.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING.