

NUR 514 Topic 7 DQ 2

Review HIPAA, protected health information (PHI), and requirements for privacy and confidentiality in EHRs. Discuss one ethical and one legal issue related to the use of EHRs that directly impact advanced registered nursing practice. Consider the emerging role of the telehealth and the EHR in patient care delivery and compromise of patient data using telehealth applications and measures you can implement in your own practice to protect patient privacy and confidentiality.

Answer:

Electronic health records (EHRs) have become the new normal for documentation in healthcare. They have many benefits including “increased delivery of guidelines-based care, enhanced capacity to perform surveillance and monitoring for disease conditions, reduction in medication errors, and decreased use of care” (McGonigle & Mastrian, 2018). With EHRs, nurses typically have access to any patient’s information that is in the system. This poses a risk for ethical issues such as fidelity if a patient’s information is shared with another person who is not caring for the patient. Such a thing could not only tarnish the relationship a patient has with a provider, but also with the profession entirely. Legally, nurses can get into trouble if they are altering their documentation inappropriately, falsifying documentation, or even using other’s documentation as their own. EHRs allow for simple and efficient means of documenting that should not be abused.