# Ensuring appropriate governance for eHealth

## ACENDIO position

- ACENDIO believes that registered nurses' use of social media should be based on knowledge and a critical stance, both professionally and in private life.
- ACENDIO believes that the execution of automated processes in e.g. scanning identities, tracking systems, dispensing of medication or other activities performed by robots should not be conducted without a human overlooking the process.
- ACENDIO advocates that guidelines should be formulated to regulate nurses' use of digital technology and social media as well as make a clear distinction between the professional and private role.
- ACENDIO advocates that in the use of eHealth, patient's vulnerability and core ethical values such as dignity, integrity and autonomy should be considered seriously.

## Background

The use of eHealth applications and services always have an ethical dimension that needs to be addressed. Just because it is possible to do something we not necessarily want to do it, or need to do it. The purpose of the intended use and the risks of violating personal secrecy and integrity needs to be balanced, primarily from the patient's perspective.

The use of eHealth applications can support patients' autonomy and the provision of safe care but can also pose a threat to privacy and integrity. The use of telemonitoring and remote electronic monitoring needs to be constantly reviewed from an ethical perspective in order to assure patients right to privacy and integrity with a respect for human dignity. A potential gain in the reduction of adverse events by using automated processes performed by robotics is beneficial for safety reasons. However, for quality reasons of the service there is a need that automated processes should be managed and overlooked by humans. The consequences of using technology instead of human contact needs to be thoroughly thought of beforehand. eHealth applications can support and mediate the encounter between a nurse and a patient, being synchronous or asynchronous, but should never replace it.

Nurses' presence and activities in social media must be carefully considered. The presence as part of the professional role is probably increasing and in need of rules and clear guidelines from an organizational perspective. When nurses are present on social media as private persons it requires a thorough understanding of the concept of secrecy and personal integrity of the patient. Just describing ones work day might jeopardize patient's integrity without the intention to do so. As

soon as patients are involved in the description, either directly or indirectly, it poses a risk of violating their integrity.

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**ACENDIO - The Association for Common European Nursing Diagnoses, Interventions and Outcomes -** is a membership organisation established in 1995 to promote the development of nursing's professional language and eHealth and to provide a network across Europe.