



Oncology Nursing Society

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ONS CHAPTER SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

ONS encourages its chapters to use social media to promote chapter activities. Social media can be a powerful tool to reach current and new members, increase chapter visibility, and promote ONS' mission. ONS has developed this policy for chapters to follow when using social media.

1. **Be Polite and Courteous.** Chapters should be respectful when interacting with others on social media. Chapters should refrain from name calling, profanity, threats, harassing or discriminatory language, bullying, or similar conduct. Anything that is inappropriate in real life is inappropriate on social media.
2. **Be Smart.** Chapters should ensure that all social media activity serves the mission of ONS and relates to the chapter's activities. Chapters should not use social media in any way that would poorly reflect ONS, the chapter, or ONS' members.
3. **Represent the Chapter.** When an ONS chapter uses social media, that chapter represents itself, not ONS. Chapters must adhere to all ONS chapter policies while using social media sites and must always act with credibility and integrity. Chapters should not use the ONS name or logo without ONS' prior approval.
4. **Verify Content and Sources.** Chapters should verify that informational posts are fact-based and come from reliable sources.
5. **Be Mindful:** Certain topics are ripe for problems on social media. Do not express personal opinions on political topics or similar matters.
6. **Respect Confidentiality and Privacy.** Chapters must not disclose any ONS or ONS chapter confidential or proprietary information, trade secrets, or any other material covered in chapter policies. Chapters should respect the privacy of individuals and avoid sharing personal or private information.
7. **Keep Accounts Secure:** Chapters are responsible for securing their social media accounts and ensuring that use of the chapter account has been authorized by the chapter.
8. **Respect the Law.** Chapters assume all risks and liability arising from their use of social media. Chapters should have the consent of any person before posting a picture or video of that person. Chapters should comply with all applicable laws, including those relating to copyrights and trademarks. Chapters should also comply with the terms and conditions for each social media platform that they use. ONS will not be responsible if a chapter violates any law or any terms and conditions of a social media platform.
9. **Respond Accordingly.** ONS may monitor chapter social media activity, but the chapters themselves are in the best position to ensure compliance with this policy and effective use of social media. Chapters should use their judgement to determine whether a social media post violates this policy and should be removed or deleted.
10. **Follow this Policy.** While chapters represent themselves – not ONS – on social media, ONS may ask chapters to remove or delete posts if ONS believes that those posts violate this policy, the law, or any other policy that applies to the chapters. In addition, if a chapter violates this policy, ONS may report the social media account to the applicable platform, direct the chapter to delete certain content or suspend or relinquish its social media account, or exercise any other rights that ONS may have.
11. **If in Doubt, Ask.** Chapters should contact chapters@ons.org with any questions about this policy.