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Adhering to HIPAA in the age of smartphones

A patient sends a text message to a doctor asking for test results, someone else logs into a medical office portal to read the summary of his/her recent visit. Such actions are now a part of everyday life as doctors and hospitals adapt to the age of smartphones and other small devices and work to equip their practices with the latest technology to make things more convenient for their patients.



The question is how can these providers ensure they don't violate the privacy of their patients and/or risk a breach under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 or HIPAA?

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Shining a light on people who work behind the scenes

Can medical facilities survive without the ES department?

It always amazes me that our environmental services technicians come to work every day. They perform very physical work, their work is critiqued by not just one person, but by doctors, nurses, patients, visitors and their supervisors. Then consider that even after they've completed their assignments, they will need to repeat their tasks again and again; their work is never done. Environmental services technicians are expected to be seen and yet unseen at the same time. They are to be cordial and polite. They are supposed to know all the answers and juggle many tasks but, for some reason, many only recognize them as the "cleaners." Wow, I really don't think I'd want to work for me. Why would I even consider this type of job that often is thought of as being menial, with an office located in the basement, hidden far back in the corner where few people see or venture?

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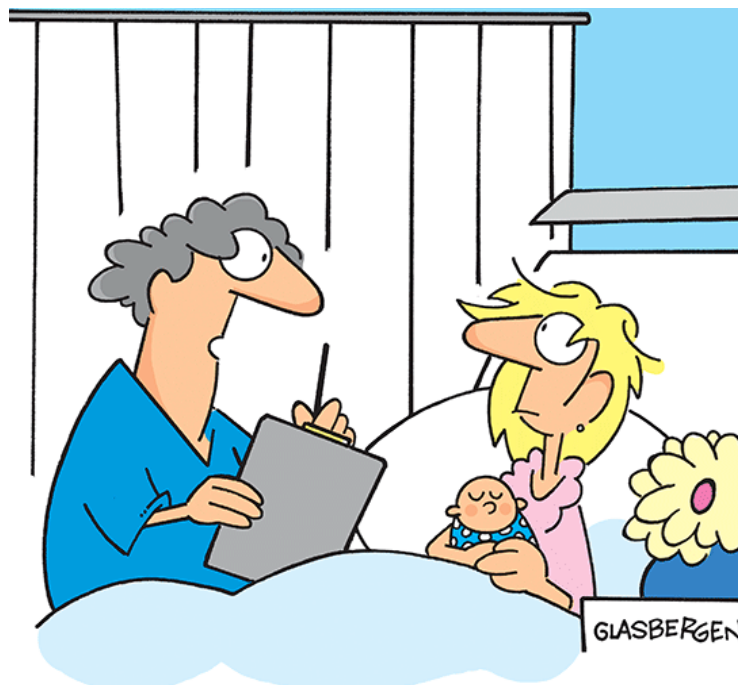
Experts Agree: Paper Towels Are the Best HandDrying Option for Healthcare Professionals

In healthcare facilities, hand washing is widely accepted as a means of helping to prevent the spread of germs and to reduce healthcare associated infections.

Hand drying - and the best way to accomplish it - has received much less attention. Given that some microbes can remain on the hands after washing, it's essential to remove them in the most effective way possible. Research indicates that paper towels are an appropriate choice for this.



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