

American Academy of Ophthalmology Community Guidelines & Standards

Oct. 16, 2009

American Academy of Ophthalmology (Academy) online communities are governed by the following set of standards that will apply to all community members and their community activity and contributions. We reserve the right to remove any material that does not (in our judgment) comply with these standards and to revoke posting privileges at our sole discretion and without warning or explanation. Our decisions are considered final.

1. You must be an active member of the Academy in order to participate in this online community.
2. You must be respectful and civil to other members, even if you disagree with them.
3. You may not post subject lines or comments containing profanity, sexually graphic or offensive language, etc. Such posts will be deleted.
4. We do not allow harassing, threatening, libelous, racist, abusive, hateful, violent or obscene language or behavior. Posts that discriminate or denigrate on the basis of race, national origin, ethnicity, age, sex, gender-preference, religion or disability will be removed.
5. Participation in, suggesting or encouraging any illegal or unethical activity is cause for immediate deletion and may be reported to the appropriate authorities.
6. You may not post any articles, news reports or other copyrighted material included in the posts without the prior permission of the relevant copyright owners. Providing a link to copyrighted material is acceptable.
7. You must comply with all HIPAA regulations in your community participation. This means you cannot post information that reveals the name or identity of a particular patient, or post a photo or video that shows a patient with enough detail to identify the patient. In situations where you feel a particular photo or video is of sufficient importance, you must obtain a signed patient release that explains to the patient that the photo or video will be posted on a members-only site, but it could appear elsewhere on the web or in print.
8. You may not flood or spam, post chain letters, pyramid schemes, junk mail or URLs for outside sites that violate any of these Guidelines.
9. No commercial solicitation or advertising will be allowed.
10. The discussions – whether in comments, forums or other online venues hosted by the Academy – are open and viewable by any Academy member. Do not post personal or any other information that you do not want seen by other members.
11. Please keep in mind that other members may claim expertise or status (legal, medical, etc.) that they do not, in fact, possess. Use discretion in following their advice.