

## Eli's Rehab Report

### Your Facebook Posts Can Come Back To Haunt You

#### Don't risk patients' privacy just to blow off steam.

The last thing your practice needs is to deal with the fallout from a therapist turning to social media to blow off steam after working with your clients.

Think it won't happen? Think again. **Alexandra Thran** of **Westerly Hospital** took to her **Facebook** account to recount a few of her emergency room encounters. Though she was careful not to reveal any patient names, people still figured out who she was talking about, according to a **Rhode Island Department of Health** press release.

After realizing her mistake, Thran shut down her account, but the damage had been done. She was fired from the hospital and forced to pay a \$500 administrative fee.

Lesson learned: Even if your therapists have placed strict controls on who can view their Facebook pages, their friends and family members will still have access to any content they post -- including any patient information they share. Coach your staffers to never take to social media when they need to deal with work stress. Facebook, **Twitter**, and other networking sites are never truly private.