# E-Tech Ethics© 2018
## Opportunities and Challenges for Social Workers

### Ellen Fink-Samnick, MSW, ACSW, LCSW, CCM, CRP
### EFS Supervision Strategies, LLC

## Abstract:

Technology continues to captivate the industry and change the face of care delivery, whether health or behavioral health care. While the principles of ethical practice have remained constant, a new rash of influences and trends impact how the professional workforce interprets them.

An endless round of HIPAA rules have professionals fixated on ePHI privacy and confidentiality. Quality, client safety, and fraud are front and center, with new risks related to medical identity theft and ransomware. Duty to Warn, conflicts of interest, and dual relationships prompt confusion amid social media popularity. Telehealth mandates licensure and reimbursement reform to allow for interstate practice. *What's a social worker to do when regulations don't sync with practice reality?*

Connecting real-world case scenarios to established professional resources, as the new Standards for Technology and Social Work Practice (NASW, ASWB, CSWE, CSWA, 2017) and the NASW Code of Ethics, this presenter will provide unique strategies to master the current challenges. Engage in an entertaining, empowering and educational experience.

**Learning Objectives:**
1. Identify 4 ethical challenges for social workers influenced by Health IT
2. Discuss professional strategies to manage social media and electronic communication
3. Apply the new Standards for Technology and Social Work Practice
4. Identify the 5 steps of E-ACTs©: A Tool for Difficult Decision-Making

## Outline: Total of 3 hours
## Time Sections I-III -90 minutes

## I. Introduction

## II: The Ethical Eight:
- That HIPAA Hype!
- Medical Identity Theft and Ransomware
- Online Professional Misconduct
- Mobile Apps & Remote Monitoring: The social worker will "download' you now.
- Electronic Health Records. Cloned Documentation: Risk Management 2.0
- Telehealth & Beyond: The Final Frontier?
- Social Media Mania
- Duty to Warn or Duty to Act©: Your Ethical Responsibility

## III. Grounding via Professional Codes of Ethics & Standards of Practice specific to:

- o Commision on Case Manager Certification (CCMC) Code of Professional Conduct for Case Managers (2015) Principles 1-8, Rule 6, Ethical Principles of Practice, Section 4: S12-17
- o National Association of Social Workers, Association of Social Work Boards, Council on Social Work Education, Clinical Social Work Association (2017) Standards for Technology and Social Work Practice
- o National Association of Social Workers: Code of Ethics (2017) 1.04 Competence, 1.06 Conflicts of Interest, 1.07 Privacy and Confidentiality

**BREAK (15 minutes, not counted toward time total)**

**IV. Critical Thinking as an Ethical Decision-Making Tool: E-ACTS©: Time-15 minutes**

**V. Interactive Breakout: Resolving Ethical Dilemmas in action (3 hour version only): Time-45 minutes**
- o Case Scenarios
- o Processing

**VI. Employing E-Tech Ethics©: Time-35 minutes**

**VII. Q & A: Time-10 minutes**
**Mode:** PowerPoint, Interactive Groups,

**Length of Presentation: 3-hour version**

**Relevance to Social Work and Behavioral Health:**
     Professional practice for social workers is increasingly complex, particularly those in the behavioral health community. Add the dynamics of ethical challenges posed by Health IT, amid a litigious environment of practice and it becomes overwhelming. Social workers and other clinical professionals must be grounded in Professional Codes of Ethics and related Professional Standards of Practice to best address the diverse needs of consumers, plus master the ethical dilemmas before them. Defined knowledge and strategies are equally critical to successfully maneuver the rapidly advancing cyber-world.