To conclude, accountability is a fundamental part of nursing. It involves being answerable and being able to justify decisions made at a later date if required. Wheeler (2012) believes that accountability and responsibility are integrally linked due to responsibility being a factor of professionalism which then leads to accountability. Although a student nurse isn’t accountable, they are deemed responsible, they should act as a role model to others and work within a professional manner. All members of staff working within the NHS must respect patients’ right to confidentiality however, they must also be aware when it is acceptable to breach confidentiality in order to protect the patient or the public from harm. Whilst maintaining confidentiality it is also important to ensure the safety of the patient is maintained, if a patient has capacity this can be a straightforward process of explaining the risks and benefits of decisions that need to be made. The patient can then be autonomous and make a decision that they feel is correct, however, if the patient lacks capacity a decision will need to be made in the patient’s best interest that is the least restrictive. The Mental Capacity Act (2005) will need to be followed for a patient lacking capacity to ensure the patient and staff involved are kept safe.
References


