Practice Guideline

Artificial Intelligence
(2025)

> **Practice Guidelines** are recommendations developed by the College with which College Registrants should be familiar and follow whenever and wherever possible and appropriate.

Preamble

Artificial intelligence (AI) has the capability to assist College Registrants in their practice, from automating tasks and improving efficiency, to aiding in diagnoses. AI tools can only be used in practice to assist and complement clinical care - they are not a replacement for clinical reasoning and professional judgment. College Registrants must ensure their use of these tools meets the College's expectations of ethical and professional conduct and continue to have regard to the best interests of their patients.

Definitions

- *Artificial Intelligence (AI):* a broad term for a category of algorithms and models that perform tasks and exhibit behaviors, such as learning and making decisions and predictions.[1]

- *AI Scribe:* a digital tool which uses AI to summarize or transcribe conversations with patients into electronic medical notes.

Practice Guideline

College Registrants who use AI in their practice must ensure that its use meets the College's professional standards of practice, ethical codes of conduct, and privacy obligations.

When using AI in practice, College Registrants are expected to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Ensure that patient privacy and confidentiality is maintained. Even without identifying information (e.g. name/MCP number), a patient's privacy may be exposed by the clinical uniqueness of a case.

- Ensure that personal health information is securely stored and transmitted and that any AI tool used in practice complies with applicable privacy and security laws and regulations.

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[1] Health Canada: *Draft guidance: Pre-market guidance for machine learning-enabled medical devices* (2023)

It is recommended that a privacy impact assessment be conducted prior to introducing AI into a medical practice.

- Ensure that personal health information is not transferred from the clinical environment at which care is provided, without the patient's consent or appropriate legal authority.

- Exercise critical thinking and clinical expertise when applying AI to patient care. The responsibility for clinical decisions made about patient care ultimately rests with the College Registrant.

- Obtain appropriate consent from the patient prior to using an AI tool in their care.

- Obtain the necessary competencies to use the intended AI tool and interpret the clinical appropriateness of a result reached and its impact on clinical decision making.

- Be mindful of the inherent bias of AI tools and critically analyze all results or recommendations through a lens which considers each patient's unique needs, circumstances, and lived experiences.

- Review all documentation produced by an AI scribe prior to its entry into the medical record to ensure the record accurately reflects the assessment.

- Ensure that all medical care provided reflects the College Registrant's own clinical reasoning and professional judgment.

- Monitor the use of any AI tool used in patient care to ensure that it is used appropriately and effectively. This includes critically reviewing and assessing whether the AI tool is suited for its intended use.

- Limit the use of AI tools that fall within Health Canada's definition of a "medical device" to those which have received appropriate approval and are compliant with applicable laws and regulations.

Acknowledgements

CPSBC (2024) Ethical Principles for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine

CPSM (2024) Responsible use of Artificial Intelligence in the Practice of Medicine

CPSA (2023) Artificial Intelligence in Generated Patient Record Content

CMPA (2023) The emergence of AI in healthcare

CMPA (2023) AI Scribes: Answers to frequently asked questions

References

Health Canada (2023). Draft guidance: Pre-market guidance for machine learning-enabled medical devices

Document History

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