

**2025 Membership Assembly
Dialogue Forum Topic #2
Friday, June 27, 2025**

**A Policy Development for the Effective Use of Artificial Intelligence from the Lens of
Ethics Within the Scope of Nursing Practice**

BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

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Overview: Integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology into nursing practice and healthcare workflows can improve clinical decision-making at the point of care and impact patient safety and outcomes. The issue is how nurses can use AI tools within their scope of practice and ethical practice. The purpose of this discussion is to consider the use of AI within the practice of nursing.

Background: The use of AI has grown exponentially within health care. The promise of integrating AI technology into nursing practice and healthcare workflows is that it can improve clinical decision-making at the point of care and impact patient safety and outcomes; optimize diagnostic accuracy and treatment efficacy; and enhance health system performance. The American Nurse Foundation and McKinsey & Company released finding from a survey of 7,200 nurses that evaluated nurses' perceptions of AI, including their familiarity and experience with it, and the risks and opportunities from the use of AI applications. Survey findings suggest that nurses are hopeful about the application of AI in nursing care.

- Forty-two percent of respondents reported that they were hopeful that the use of AI would improve quality.
- Twenty-three percent of respondents reported being uncomfortable with AI and patient care.
- The top concerns identified by respondents included:
 - 61% of respondents cited a lack of trust in the accuracy of AI
 - 49% of respondents noted a concern about the lack of human interaction
 - 36% of respondents expressed concern about their lack of knowledge about the use of AI based tools.
- To address these concerns, 73% of respondents seek involvement in the design of AI tools.

The topic issue has national relevance in many ways. AI is considered a meaningful clinical application of machines capable of simulating human intellectual function (Busnatu et al.,

2022). It can guide the clinician in identifying the algorithm for prevention, screening, treatment of diseases, and prediction of prognosis, for example detecting atrial fibrillation, predicting stroke reoccurrence, personalized cancer therapy treatments, and improved prediction of acute leukemia (Busnatu et al., 2022).

Existing ANA policy, includes its 2022 position statement, The Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in Nursing Practice, that states:

Nursing values and ethics, described in the Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements, place caring and compassion as central elements in the nurse-patient relationship. ANA believes the appropriate use of AI in nursing practice supports and enhances the core values and ethical obligations of the profession. AI that appears to impede or diminish these core values and obligations must be avoided or incorporated only in such way that these values and obligations are protected. Nurses must ensure that advanced technologies do not compromise the nature of human interactions and relationships central to the nursing profession. It is crucial that nurses anticipate and evaluate the impact of AI on health care through a proactive approach that emphasizes agency, caring, and influence over how technology is developed and applied (Archibald & Barnard, 2018). Nurses must be informed about AI so they can provide appropriate education to patients and families to dispel myths and alleviate fears and thereby support the use of AI for optimal health outcomes.

The Nursing and Artificial Intelligence Leadership Collaborative (Ronquillo, C.E., Peltonen, L.M., Pruinelli, L., et. al. 2021), an international collaborative comprised of experts in AI, published a consensus statement identifying three priorities with strategies and opportunities for consideration by the nursing community. These priorities are:

- Priority 1 – Nurses must understand the relationship between data they collect and AI technology that they use.
- Priority 2 – Nurses must be involved in all stages of AI: From development to implementation,
- Priority 3 - “AI for good nursing”: AI must be used to help nurses be better at what they do.

The impact of AI in healthcare is huge nationally and globally though the strong evidence is still under research. The American Nurses Association is in a key position of innovation to develop a policy for nurses on the ethical use of AI in the current practice. The current world of innovative science and discovery is making the delivery of healthcare more complex. It is essential that nursing understand the impact of AI and consider how it can support the development of knowledge of clinical processes and advance nursing practice. With the rapid and exponential increase in the plethora of health-related digital data that is generated by the citizens themselves it is necessary to understand the use of big data and the management of electronic health records within and outside the system via automated aggregation of patient information. The AI-based machine learning methods offer opportunities for extracting new inferences and meaningful insights that have promising potential to improve health outcomes with better clinical decision making for

safe and quality patient care. It will also enhance the professional growth of nurses in clinical expertise.

Questions for the Assembly:

1. How is AI technology being used in your practice?
2. What challenges have you noted with its use?
3. What opportunities have you noted with its use?
4. How can AI support nursing practice and patient care?
5. Were you notified that AI is being used in your facility? If yes, how were you notified and was there commensurate education about its use?

Recommendations: Nurses are stakeholders and change champions to evaluate AI-based decision support system. ANA will:

1. Partner with stakeholders to develop guidelines that consider both the ethical and legal domains, for the use of AI tools within nursing practice to improve patient outcomes.

References

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