

Interim guidance for acupuncturists on the use of artificial intelligence (AI)

When implementing any technology or tool, including artificial intelligence (AI), it's critical to remember that regulated members remain responsible for the accuracy of all information, complying with relevant Standards of Practice and the Code of Professional Conduct, and maintaining the dignity of the profession.

Bottom line

Regulated members must obtain informed consent from patients for the use of an AI tool.

Regulated members must maintain, use, and rely on their professional judgment when providing patient care and should not substitute their judgment with the output of an AI tool.

Regulated members must not rely on any AI tool as a sole source of information.

Regulated members remain responsible for all output from an AI tool.

Regulated members using AI tools should proceed with extreme caution and ensure they maintain compliance with all Standards of Practice, the Code of Professional Conduct, and applicable legislation.

If a regulated member is unable to assess any given AI tool for risks, anticipate potential impact, and understand how to mitigate risks, the regulated member should not use AI.

Risks

The use of AI in professional practice, especially in health care, presents numerous risks.

Privacy: Use of AI tools poses a significant privacy risk if a patient’s personal or health information is entered into the tool. Even anonymized data may reveal a patient’s identity.

Patient information must never be entered into a public AI tool. A public AI tool is one accessed for free online, such as ChatGPT and Microsoft Copilot.

Private AI tools a regulated member pays for may only be used with a patient’s full and informed consent. At no time should a patient’s personal or health information be entered into a private AI tool without the patient’s documented consent. If a regulated member cannot explain to a patient the possible risks and thus cannot secure informed consent, the regulated member should not propose the tool’s use.

Incorrect information: Generative AI tools regularly provide incorrect information and do so confidently. Generative AI chatbot tools do not think, reason, or understand, despite them being designed to give the opposite impression. An AI tool should not be the sole source of information or relied upon by a regulated member to make any decisions in the course of providing patient care.

The accuracy and reliability of AI-supported scribe tools for chart notes is not yet established. If an AI tool is used to generate, summarize, or produce material, such as chart notes and letters, the regulated member must review the output for inaccuracies and correct it as necessary. The final output of anything generated by AI is ultimately the regulated member’s responsibility.

Bias: The models that underpin AI tools were trained on information that contains bias; therefore, the output of an AI tool can contain bias. If an AI tool is used to generate, summarize, or produce material, such as chart notes and letters, the regulated member must review the output for bias and correct it as necessary. The final output of anything generated by AI is ultimately the regulated member’s responsibility.

Principles for the use of AI in clinical work

1. Regulated members are professionally responsible for using or acting on any information provided by an AI tool.
2. Regulated members must make all decisions related to patient care and should not offload or delegate decision-making to an AI tool.

3. Regulated members must rigorously review any output of an AI tool to ensure it is correct, accurate, and evaluated for bias.
4. Patient privacy must always be protected.
5. Regulated members must obtain full informed consent from patients before implementing the use of any AI tool in clinical care, such as for recording conversations and generating chart notes with an AI scribe. Patients must give consent for every use and can withdraw consent at any time.
6. Use of any AI tool must be documented by the regulated member. Documentation should include the patient's consent for the tool's use, the name of the tool used, and that the regulated member reviewed and verified the tool's output.
7. Regulated members who use AI tools for research must fully review and validate the information using reliable sources before acting on it. Regulated members should not substitute an AI tool's output for their professional judgment. Information that must be verified includes, but is not limited to, information related to:
 - Symptoms
 - Diagnosis
 - Point location or selection
 - Courses of treatment

Use of AI for business activities

Regulated members may use AI tools for business activities not related to patient care, such as developing:

- advertising plans
- marketing plans
- social media or other communications content

However, regulated members remain responsible for the accuracy of all information, complying with relevant Standards of Practice and the [Code of Professional Conduct](#), and maintaining the dignity of the profession.