



Uses of Artificial Intelligence In Clinical Medicine

A Brief Overview for Legal Professionals

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I. INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is being used increasingly in various areas of healthcare, including clinical care, healthcare operations (including billing), and patient-facing/direct-to-consumer services (including wearable devices). Across all of these areas, the uses and capabilities of AI is a very broad topic that encompasses hundreds of technologies and products. This review focusses solely on AI's use by clinicians and health care organizations to support clinical care. This topic, itself, is large and consists of support for a variety of clinical or related tasks, including diagnosis, risk assessment, treatment planning, clinical documentation, medical-records review, and patient outreach. For such tasks, AI tools are already in use or in advanced development across numerous clinical specialties, including primary care, radiology, pathology, neurology, nephrology, oncology, pulmonology, and cardiology.

AI has demonstrated remarkable capabilities to improve diagnostic accuracy and inform treatment, as well as to streamline clinicians' creation and use of medical records. At the same time, research is showing that AI technology, itself, and its incorporation into clinical workflows are not without limitations, errors, and growing pains. AI systems can make gross errors that pose risks to patient safety. When AI software products are installed in specific hospitals or clinics, they can perform less effectively than advertised. Clinicians using AI to inform their care can trust the technology's advice too much or too little. Clinicians relying on AI may even be losing their independent clinical skills.

This paper reviews some basics about modern AI technology, describes a variety of AI systems in use or near-use in clinical care today, explains certain demonstrated limitations and challenges associated with the use of these systems, and touches on a few legal and regulatory implications of AI's growth in clinical care.

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