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The Exploration of Ethics in AI and Nursing Care

The 2022 ANA AI Position Statement and the 2015 & 2025 ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses

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ANA Center for Ethics and Human Rights (CEHR)

- The Center is committed to **addressing the complex ethical and human rights issues confronting nurses** and designing activities and programs to **increase the ethical competence** and **human rights sensitivity of nurses.** Through the Center, ANA's abiding commitment to the human rights dimensions of health care is demonstrated.
- The American Nurses Association (ANA) Center for Ethics and Human Rights was established to **help nurses navigate ethical and value conflicts,** and life and death decisions, many of which are common to everyday practice. The Center **develops policy** designed to address issues in ethics and human rights at the state, national, and international levels. Through its highly visible information, activities, and programs, the Center **promotes the ethical competence** and human rights sensitivity of nurses in **all practice settings** and demonstrates ANA's abiding commitment to human rights.

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2022 ANA Position Statement

The Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in Nursing Practice

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. 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.

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2022 ANA Position Statement on The Ethical Use of AI in Nursing Practice

RECOMMENDATIONS:

According to the Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements (ANA, 2015), advanced technologies, including AI, do not replace nursing skills or judgment. The Code of Ethics for Nurses Interpretive Statement 4.2 clarifies that "nurses in all roles are accountable for decisions made and actions taken in the course of nursing practice. Systems and technologies that assist in clinical practice are adjunct to, not replacements for, the nurse's knowledge and skill" (ANA, 2015, p. 15).

AI does not replace a nurse's decision-making, judgment, critical thinking, or assessment skills. Interpretative Statement 1.1 holds that "nurses consider the needs and respect the values of each person in every professional relationship and setting; they provide leadership in the development and implementation of changes in public and health policies that support this duty" (ANA, 2015, p. 1).

Nurses are responsible for being informed about and ensuring the appropriate use of AI to optimize the health and well-being of those in their care.

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2022 ANA Position Statement on The Ethical Use of AI in Nursing Practice

Summary

Integration of AI in practice must not alter the goals of patient care. Compassion, trust, and caring are foundational principles in the nurse-patient relationship. The continually evolving of advanced digital technologies such as AI must be adopted or integrated into nursing practice within these nursing and ethical care elements so that nursing practice remains relevant in the changing landscape (Fronczek, 2019).

Nurses within their respective domains need to be aware of how AI impacts their nursing processes and their patient outcomes. Within public health, research, and informatic nursing, an awareness of how population data or big data can easily overshadow minority health needs and perpetuate disparities is necessary. Each nurse must consider how AI is integrated into their practice and be cognizant of ways it can help and hurt both individual and population health outcomes.

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2025 ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses

Provision 7.5, a new interpretive statement, focused on considerations related to ethics, technology, and policy – there is where we specifically highlight machine learning, AI, and related concepts.

The Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in Nursing Practice

Documentation – Article in the NY Times 9/24/24

"That Message From Your Doctor? It May Have Been Drafted by A.I."
Overwhelmed by queries, physicians are turning to artificial intelligence to
correspond with patients. Many have no clue that the replies are software-
generated. – T. Rosenbluth, NY Times 9/24/24

Something to consider: When will AI be used to write your
nurse's notes?

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