Byte-Sized Reflections

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Reflections on AI for Briefing Note Writing

My experience with ChatGPT, a Generative Pre-trained Transformer 3, in generating a briefing note on "Expanding Access to Naloxone through Digital Prescribing Platforms to Address Opioid-Related Mortality" was challenging initially but revealed some promising capabilities. Crafting the briefing note prompt for the AI tool involved an iterative, time-intensive process of trial and error. Despite multiple attempts to refine the prompts, the resulting briefing note still had significant differences from my original briefing note. Beyond the iterative prompt engineering, I found ChatGPT's functionality limited for this use case. While it took multiple attempts to refine the prompts to produce an adequate briefing note, I was impressed by how quickly ChatGPT could generate a structured document with relevant background and recommendations.

While ChatGPT effectively followed the standard briefing note format with an introduction, background section, analysis, and recommendations, the content itself differed from my original in critical ways. ChatGPT's background summary provided a competent overview of the opioid epidemic and rising mortality rates, similar to my original note. While it accurately summarized the issue, it failed to reference any recent studies when citing statistics - my original note pointed to newly released 2023 data whereas ChatGPT only used outdated pre-2020 sources. Its background section was, however, more concise and uniformly structured. Additionally, while both notes highlighted the value of naloxone, ChatGPT's recommendations lacked original perspectives. My note proposed specific innovations like a mobile app with breathing monitoring and geofencing whereas ChatGPT simply stated digital solutions like mobile apps should be explored. It also completely failed to address considerations around ethics, health equity, diversity and inclusion, which my original note emphasized as a priority. Furthermore, the tone differed significantly. ChatGPT's language, while impressive, employed specialized technical terms. This approach might resonate with experts, whereas my original note focused on clear, accessible language suitable for a broader audience, potentially making it a more effective communication tool for the minister. In summary, while ChatGPT could rapidly produce a formatted brief, it fell short on providing updated evidence, original analysis, equitable considerations, and customized language. Significant human editing would be required to incorporate expertise, nuance, and an ethics- centered equity lens.

The exercise demonstrated ChatGPT's potential to aid drafting by assembling relevant content quickly. With extensive human editing, it could serve as a starting point for documents. But subject matter experts are vital to refine and enhance the output by strengthening analysis, addressing ethical issues, improving readability, and incorporating original insights tailored to public health. Prompt engineering is key to get better quality output by setting clear expectations around purpose, audience, tone and equity considerations.

I recommend AI in public health as a tool for developing supportive materials and gathering background information, while relying on human expertise for original and ethical analysis and solutions. With transparency and education around its capabilities and limitations, AI like ChatGPT can augment human workflows. However, maintaining human oversight is crucial to ensure recommendations are unbiased, socially responsible and customized for public health

Overall, while AI cannot replace human judgment, with the right guardrails it can be a useful complementary tool to increase efficiency. But human input is vital for expertise, nuance and equity.

Appendix:

AI Tool used: ChatGPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer 3)

Prompts used:

1. Write me a 2 page briefing note on the topic "Expanding Access to Naloxone through Digital Prescribing Platforms to Address Opioid-Related Mortality".
   The structure should be as follows:
   Purpose
   Public health issue
   Current status and analysis of digital solutions being used to address the issue
   Conclusion

2. Please make the following modifications:
   Make purpose more concise and clearer
   Add more statistical data in the public health issue paragraph and mention about the different types of opioids
   For the current status para, mention about all the latest digital solutions that exist to address this problem of opioid related deaths. For each digital solution give me pros and cons so that analysis becomes clearer.
   in the conclusion add recommendations to support my analysis and try to add a conclusion in such a way that the entire briefing note gets summarised

3. Try to add more examples of digital solutions and try to suggest the possible innovations that can be done to these existing solutions

4. I think that the analysis is very generalised try to make it more specific and try to give more in-depth and critical analysis for each mentioned solution

5. Now add references wherever possible