

Ethical AI Use in Healthcare: Guideline Proposal

Patient Consent Protocols

- **Informed Consent:** AI-powered diagnostics and decision-support tools must be disclosed prior to use. Patients should understand the AI's role, capabilities, and limitations.
- **Opt-In Mechanisms:** Ensure patients actively opt in to AI involvement, especially when sensitive health data is used for predictive analysis or research.
- **Data Handling Assurance:** Clearly communicate how patient data is collected, processed, stored, and protected, adhering to global standards like GDPR and HIPAA.

Bias Mitigation Strategies

- **Diverse Training Data:** Models must be trained on representative datasets reflecting varied demographics (e.g., age, ethnicity, gender) to avoid discriminatory outcomes.
- **Regular Audits:** Conduct bias assessments using tools like IBM AI Fairness 360 to monitor and correct disparities in model performance across population groups.
- **Inclusive Design Teams:** Engage multidisciplinary teams, including clinicians, ethicists, and marginalized community representatives, in model development and review.

Transparency Requirements

- **Explainability by Design:** Employ interpretable AI approaches (e.g., LIME, SHAP) to ensure clinicians and patients can understand AI-driven recommendations.
- **Disclosure of Limitations:** Publish known constraints, risk factors, and performance benchmarks of AI systems in accessible formats.
- **Traceable Decision Logs:** Maintain detailed records of AI-influenced decisions for auditability and accountability, especially in clinical diagnostics and treatment planning.