
Ethical AI Policy Proposal for Healthcare



Ethical Policy Proposal for AI in Healthcare Systems

AI tools in healthcare have the potential to improve early diagnosis, reduce workloads, and expand access — but if misused, they can harm patients, reinforce inequality, or erode trust. The following policy ensures responsible and ethical use of AI in any healthcare setting:



1. Patient Privacy and Data Protection

- AI systems must **collect only necessary medical data** and store it securely.
 - All patient data must be encrypted in storage and transmission.
 - Users must give **clear, informed consent** before any data is used.
 - Patients have the right to access, export, or delete their data at any time.
-



2. Fairness and Bias Mitigation

- AI tools must be trained on **diverse datasets** (across race, gender, age, geography).
 - Regular **bias audits** should be conducted (e.g. using AI Fairness 360).
 - Performance metrics must be **publicly available** for transparency.
 - Any group with lower accuracy must be identified and addressed before rollout.
-



3. Explainability and Transparency

- AI systems must provide **clear explanations** for decisions (e.g., “This alert is based on your symptom + age group data”).
 - Confidence levels should be shown.
 - System limitations must be disclosed (e.g., “Not suitable for emergency diagnosis”).
-

4. Human Oversight and User Autonomy

- No AI system should **make final medical decisions** without human involvement.
 - Doctors, nurses, or caregivers must **review AI outputs** before acting on them.
 - Patients should be able to **reject or override** AI advice if they choose.
-

5. Accountability

- The organization deploying the AI must take legal responsibility for errors or harm.
 - Incident reporting procedures must be in place (e.g., if a system misdiagnoses or fails).
 - Developers and providers must keep an **audit trail** for all AI model decisions.
-

6. Accessibility and Inclusivity

- AI interfaces must be available in **multiple languages** (e.g., English and Swahili in Kenya).
 - Systems should be designed to be usable by people with **low literacy** or **limited digital skills**.
 - Offline functionality or low-data versions should be available where possible.
-

Conclusion

This policy ensures that AI in healthcare is not just innovative but **safe, fair, and respectful** to every patient. It balances **technological advancement with human rights**, ensuring trust and safety come first.