



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA
SANFORD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION Artificial Intelligence (AI) Clinical Usage

Purpose

This policy outlines the appropriate, ethical, and HIPAA-compliant use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools by residents within the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs. It is intended to ensure safe patient care, protect patient privacy, and support residents in responsible clinical innovation.

Definition of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

For the purposes of this policy, AI includes any software or system that uses algorithms, machine learning, natural language processing, or other computational methods to assist or automate decision-making, documentation, prediction, or diagnostic processes.

Resident Responsibilities

A. HIPAA and Patient Privacy

Residents must:

- Never input Protected Health Information (PHI) into publicly accessible AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Google Bard, etc.) unless those tools have been explicitly approved and contracted by USD or its clinical partners and meet HIPAA security standards.
- Only use institutionally-approved AI platforms **integrated** within the Electronic Health Record (EHR) or otherwise vetted for HIPAA compliance. Personal AI accounts, even from an authorized vendor, are not authorized for use with PHI.
- Treat AI-generated outputs that involve patient care as sensitive and subject to HIPAA protections.

B. Clinical Judgment and Accountability

Residents must:

- Use AI tools **only to supplement**, not replace, clinical judgment.
- Independently verify all AI-generated outputs before incorporating them into patient care.

- Understand the limitations of AI models, including potential biases and lack of transparency in decision-making algorithms.

C. Education and Documentation

Residents are encouraged to:

- Seek supervision or clarification when uncertain about the appropriateness of using AI in specific clinical scenarios.

D. Training and Awareness

Residents must:

- Complete mandatory training on safe and ethical AI use, including HIPAA considerations, prior to engaging with AI in clinical or research contexts.
- Stay updated on institutional policies regarding AI tools.

Prohibited Uses

Residents may **not**:

- Use personal accounts or non-institution-approved AI tools for clinical documentation, patient communication, or research involving PHI.
- Use AI to alter, fabricate, or obscure medical data or documentation.
- Store or transmit PHI through unsecured or unapproved platforms.

Consequences of Violations

Disciplinary action is possible as defined by the GME Professional Conduct and Misconduct Policy, the SDBMOE, local, and or federal authorities including legal penalties related to HIPAA.

Adopted Date: 2025