

Practice Alert – Use of AI for community pharmacist prescribing activities

PRACTICE ALERT: Queensland Community Pharmacy Prescribing

Key Point

While Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools can streamline workflow by assisting with clinical notetaking, they can produce errors and over reliance may result in professional skill atrophy. A hybrid approach should be adopted.

AI tools can support an efficient approach to clinical notetaking by transcribing and summarising real-time patient–clinician conversations into structured clinical documentation. While these tools can streamline workflows and reduce administrative burden, they may also introduce errors and inaccuracies. Overreliance on these tools can also contribute to professional skill atrophy, including reduced ability to document clearly, summarise clinical information and apply clinical reasoning.

A key strategy to assist with mitigating the risk of deskilling is adopting a hybrid approach to clinical notetaking. This approach strategically combines AI assistance with manual documentation.

- **Initial manual notes:** Begin with brief handwritten notes during the consultation to support active listening, observation, and documentation of physical examination findings.
- **AI-assisted expansion:** Use AI tools, with patient consent, to expand on these initial notes, by adding more detail whilst ensuring comprehensive documentation that comply with medico-legal standards and professional obligations.
- **Manual review and refinement:** Critically review your AI-generated notes to ensure accuracy, whilst adding in clinical insights and applying clinical reasoning.

This hybrid approach allows leverage of AI tool's efficiency while maintaining core professional skills and ensuring the quality and accuracy of clinical notetaking.

Remember as the treating clinician you are responsible for ensuring appropriate, timely and accurate documentation of your consultation regardless of whether AI tools are used or not.

Further information on the use of AI in healthcare can be found at:

- [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency - Meeting your professional obligations when using Artificial Intelligence in healthcare.](#)
- [Artificial Intelligence | Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](#)
- [Artificial intelligence \(AI\) in health care | Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing](#)