

Responsible use of AI in oral health practice

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a powerful tool that can be used to support administrative and clinical documentation, with oral health practitioners among those beginning to embed this new technology into practice. While AI offers efficiency, using it responsibly is essential to protect patients and meet professional standards. You should understand both the uses and limitations of AI when adopting it into your work.

To support responsible use of AI tools in healthcare, Health New Zealand [recently published guidelines](#) and endorsed Heidi AI scribes.

Privacy and information

When you use AI for patient consultations, records, or administration, you're handling personal health information.

This means you need to:

- collect information fairly and use it lawfully
- tell patients what information is being collected and why
- have systems in place to keep information secure
- check information is accurate before using it
- allow patients to access and correct their information.

You should check that the AI tools you use are safe and appropriate.

Informed consent

Before using AI in patient care, explain what it will be used for and get consent. It's important to be transparent when using AI.

Your responsibilities

In a changing practice environment, including where new technology is in use, you still need to meet your ethical obligations and use your professional judgement. You remain accountable for your practice, even when using AI, and you must:

- always prioritise and maintain patient health and safety
- practise within your scope of practice, education, training, experience and competence. AI is not a substitute for clinical judgement
- be responsible for the clinical records you create. Check AI-generated records for accuracy before adding them to patient files
- ensure you maintain the confidentiality and security of information.

Staying up to date

AI is evolving quickly and as it becomes more embedded in health care, **keep up to date with guidance and review your practices regularly.** Health New Zealand's guidance may be a helpful resource for those wanting to know more about AI in health care.

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