UKMi
UK Medicines Information

Artificial Intelligence for Medicines-Related Questions: Your Essential Guide

Generative AI models should be used with caution

Generative AI or Large Language Models (LLMs) include ChatGPT, Copilot, Gemini and others

Generative AI operates through statistical prediction rather than clinical reasoning

AI is designed to predict what text to write based on extensive training data, often sourced from the internet

Outputs from AI should not replace reputable NHS-approved resources such as the BNF, clinical guidelines, or professional expertise
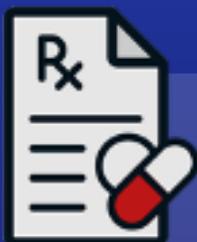
NEVER enter patient data on public AI models

Patient information of any kind is strictly prohibited to be entered into publicly available AI models

This includes name, address, NHS number, date of birth

Current AI models are not confidential and therefore this may constitute a data breach. Always follow your organisation's AI policies and UK GDPR requirements

Risks of using AI for medicines-related decisions

'Hallucinations'
AI gives a different answer each time you use it and can create completely incorrect answers which can appear to be correct. It can even create fake research citations.

Incomplete knowledge and bias
AI models are trained on data sets which may not be up to date. They may not be able to access information behind subscriptions or paywalls and so its answer can carry bias.

WRONG INFORMATION CAN LOOK COMPLETELY CREDIBLE

YOU are professionally accountable

YOU remain fully responsible for any clinical advice you provide, regardless of the tools you have used

Where AI has been used, the information:
- must be verified by a qualified professional (e.g. a pharmacist)
- must be cross-referenced with the current evidence or guidance

Where in doubt, contact your designated pharmacist or local Medicines Information / Medicines Advice Service