

Ethical Integration of AI in Care for Older Adults, Persons with Dementia, and Caregivers

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School Social Work
Association of America



4C's of 21st Century Learning



Learning Objectives

- Describe how AI is emerging in elder care and dementia care
- Identify practical AI tools that can support nurses, social workers, and caregivers
- Demonstrate example prompts clinicians and caregivers can use with AI tools
- Identify ethical considerations when integrating AI into care
- Evaluate how AI can support independence, safety, and caregiver well-being



Aging Population and Caregiver Burden

- Over 55 million people worldwide live with dementia
- Caregiver burnout and workforce shortages are increasing
- Many older adults want to age in place
- Clinicians face growing documentation and coordination demands



Uses of AI

- Memory support
- Medication reminders
- Care coordination
- Emotional support
- Caregiver education

Can be used as a support tool, but should not a replacement for human care



AI Tech Uses Continued

Safety

- [Fall detection](#)
- [medication reminders](#)

Independence

- [voice assistants](#)
- [smart home tech](#)

Cognitive Support

- [memory supports](#)
- [early detection](#)

Caregiver Support

- [Emotional support](#)
- [educational resources](#)



What is Artificial Intelligence

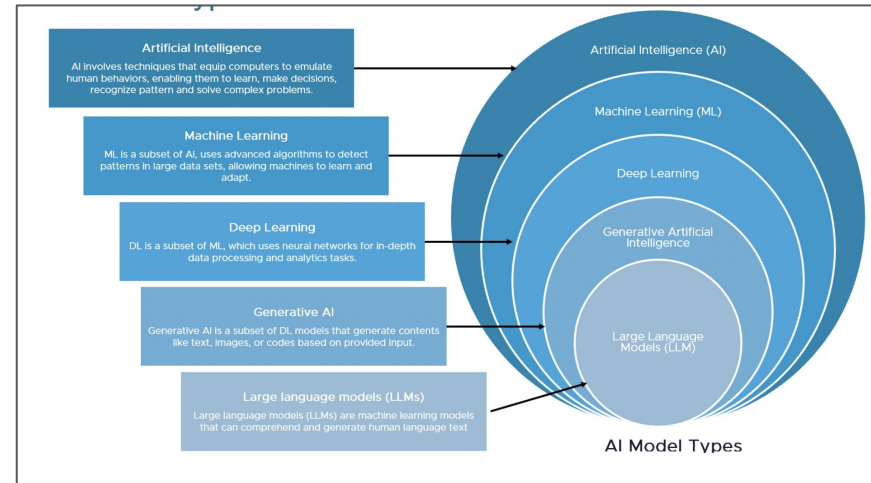
Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the simulation of human intelligence in machines that are programmed to think like humans. The term may also be applied to any machine that exhibits traits associated with a human mind, such as learning and problem-solving.



The content on this slide was created with the assistance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and reviewed by Dr. Marina Badillo-Diaz

AI Is Everywhere

- AI has been in existence since the 1950s
- This technology is used in many of our everyday devices
- Alexa, Siri
- Social Media, Netflix
- Customer support

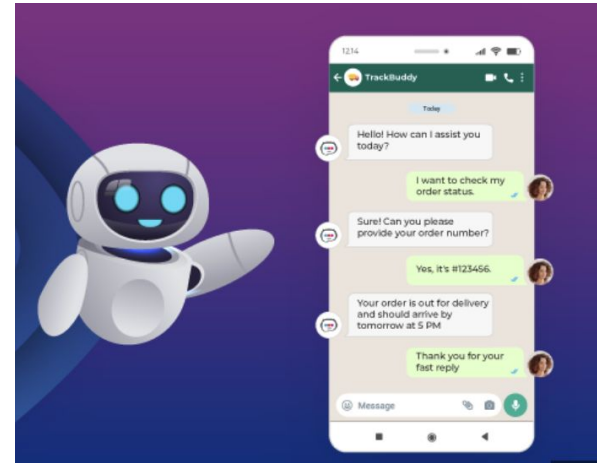


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Chatbots

Uses artificial intelligence (**natural language processing** and **generative AI**) to simulate human conversation. They can understand, process, and respond to text (and sometimes voice) in a way that feels conversational and human-like.



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It is Important to Know: Generative AI Chatbots are Not

- Free from biases or inaccuracies
- Secure with data and privacy
- A replacement of professional expertise

You are still the Human Expert using AI. You Must Review, Analyze, and Edit the content generated from AI when Appropriate.



Examples of AI Chatbot Tools for Practitioners



| Generic Chatbots | Specialized Chatbots |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <u>Gemini</u> | <u>Berries AI</u> |
| <u>Perplexity</u> | <u>Upheal</u> * |
| <u>Copilot</u> | <u>Bastion GPT</u> * |
| <u>ChatGPT</u> | <u>Heidi for Nursing</u> * |
| <u>Claude</u> | <u>Dementia Care Agent</u> * |
| | *cost to the platform |

Never enter identifiable information into AI Platforms



Practitioner's Use

- Find Resources
- Create handouts
- Drafting TX plans
- Psychoeducation materials
- Translate instructions

"Create a caregiver education handout explaining behavioral changes in Alzheimer's disease and how family members can respond."

"I am a social worker working with a family with an 89 year old with dementia. What are local caregiving resources that I can recommend this family who reside in New York City"



Drop in the Chat...

What are ways you are using AI in your practice?



Examples of AI Chatbot Tools for Caregivers/Patients



| Generic Chatbots | Specialized AI Tools | Emotional Support Chatbots |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| <u>Gemini</u> | <u>Alison</u> | <u>Wysa</u> |
| <u>Perplexity</u> | <u>Caring Village</u> | <u>Quiktok</u> * |
| <u>Copilot</u> | <u>ElliQ</u> * | |
| <u>ChatGPT</u> | <u>Dementia Care Agent</u> * | |
| <u>Claude</u> | * cost to the platform | |



How AI Chatbots are Helping Caregivers/Patients

- Emotional Support
- Simplify medical language
- Learn caregiving strategies
- Generate daily care routines

"I am caring for my spouse with dementia and feeling overwhelmed. What coping strategies and resources can help caregivers prevent burnout?"

"Create a daily routine for an 82-year-old man with moderate dementia who lives at home with a caregiver. Include meals, medication reminders, activities, and rest."



Drop in the Chat...

What are Apps or AI Tools that you see caregivers/dementia patients use?



Ethical & Responsible Use



ANA Nurses AI Guidance

POSITION STATEMENT



The Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in Nursing Practice

Effective Date: 2022
Status: Position Statement
Written by: ANA Center for Ethics and Human Rights
Adopted by: ANA Board of Directors

Purpose

The purpose of this position statement is to provide nurses with ethical guidance on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in health care. AI is a broad category that involves using algorithms to drive the behavior of agents such as software programs, machines, robotics, games, and other hardware devices (Clipper, Batcheller, Thomaz, & Rozga, 2018). AI in health care encompasses a wide range of existing, emerging, and future technologies intended to assist nurses in caring for their patients. Data, including big data, is an important aspect of AI because its ethical use influences how AI functions and thus how it affects patients. As new AI technologies continue to emerge, nurses must have guidance on the ethical, caring, compassionate, and safe use of AI in health care. This position statement provides practical examples of AI in nursing and addresses ethical considerations by using a systematic approach based on core tenets in the literature to analyze the appropriateness of AI's application in practice.

Statement of ANA Position

Nursing values and ethics, described in the Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements, place caring and compassion as central elements in the nurse-patient relationship. ANA believes the appropriate use of AI in nursing practice supports and enhances the core values and ethical obligations of the profession. AI that appears to impede or diminish these core values and obligations must be avoided or incorporated only in such way that these values and obligations are protected. Nurses must ensure that advanced technologies do not compromise the nature of human interactions and relationships central to the nursing



[ANA Guidance on AI](#)




Nurses AI Literacy Framework

- **N**avigate AI basics: Understand fundamental concepts (machine learning, NLP).
- **U**tilize AI strategically: Align tools with patient outcomes and clinical workflows.
- **R**ecognize AI pitfalls: Be aware of hallucinations (false info), bias, and overreliance.
- **S**kills support: Engage in continuous education for digital health tools.
- **E**thics in action: Apply moral judgment to protect patient privacy and equity.
- **S**hape the future: Actively participate in the development and governance of AI tools.

[Hoelscher & Pugh 2025](#)




APA AI Guidance

 **AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

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Ethical guidance for AI in the professional practice of health service psychology

Artificial intelligence (AI) is developing rapidly and is increasingly being integrated into psychological practice. Many AI-driven tools are now available to assist with clinical decision-making, documentation, or patient engagement. These tools hold promises for improving access and efficiency, but they also raise ethical concerns that require careful consideration to safeguard patient well-being and trust.

APA's [Ethical Guidance for AI in the Professional Practice of Health Service Psychology \(PDF, 126KB\)](#) was developed specifically for health service psychologists who want to ethically integrate AI into their practice. This document offers practical considerations and recommendations tailored to real-world clinical settings.

[APA Guidance on AI](#)

[APA Evaluating AI Tools](#)

[APA AI Chatbot Guidance](#)



Technology & Ethics

- Standard 2.07: Confidentiality and the Use of Technology
- Standard 2.11: Use of Personal Technology for Work Purposes
- Standard 2.23: Current Knowledge and Competence
- Standard 2.05: Assessing Clients' Relationships with Technology

[NASW Tech Code of Ethics](#)



National Association of Social Workers



Ethical & Responsible Practices

- Privacy
- Data security
- Bias in algorithms and accuracy of information
- Overreliance on technology
- Transparency
- Human oversight
- Privacy protection



Clinical Guardrails for Practitioners

- Never input identifiable patient information
- Verify AI-generated clinical content
- Ensure HIPAA / privacy standards
- Follow Agency policy
- **Use AI as support, not authority**



Ethical AI For Caregivers/Patients

- Verify medical advice
- consult clinicians for decisions
- avoid replacing medical care with AI
- **AI is a support tool, not a medical provider**



AI Risk for Patients/Clients

- Misinformation
- emotional dependence on AI companions (AI Psychosis)
- privacy concerns
- digital divide among older adults



Close Out & Recap

- AI should be used as a support tool, not a substitute for professional medical or clinical judgment.
- Human care, compassion, and professional expertise remain at the center of dementia care.



AI & Environmental Impact

- We need more transparency and more research
- As a whole, we should examine our tech usage and consumption (not just AI) and find ways to offset our carbon footprint
- The field as a whole needs to advocate environmental justice and sustainability
- Individually, we need to do our part to reduce our carbon footprint



Always in Practice...

- AI is the tool, it is not the answer or a replacement
- Rely on human intelligent not, Artificial Intelligence. You (the human) are the expert
- You must analyze and validate responses using your expertise and never enter identifiable information
- Continue learning to build your professional competence



Resources

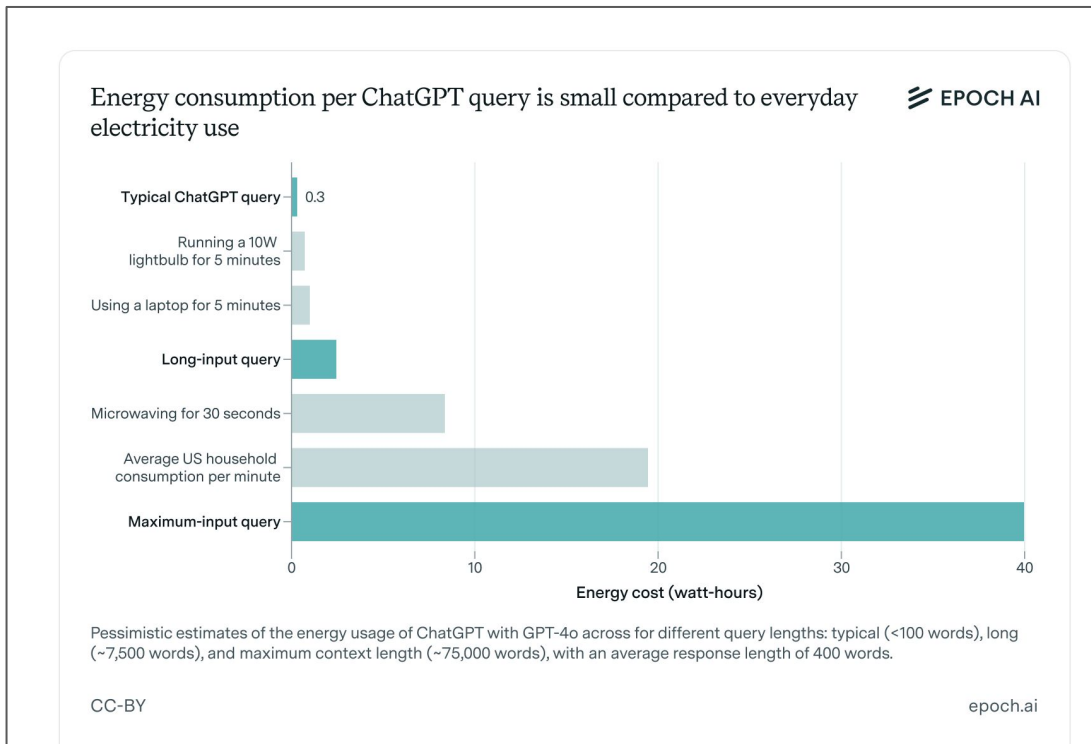


AI & Environmental Impact

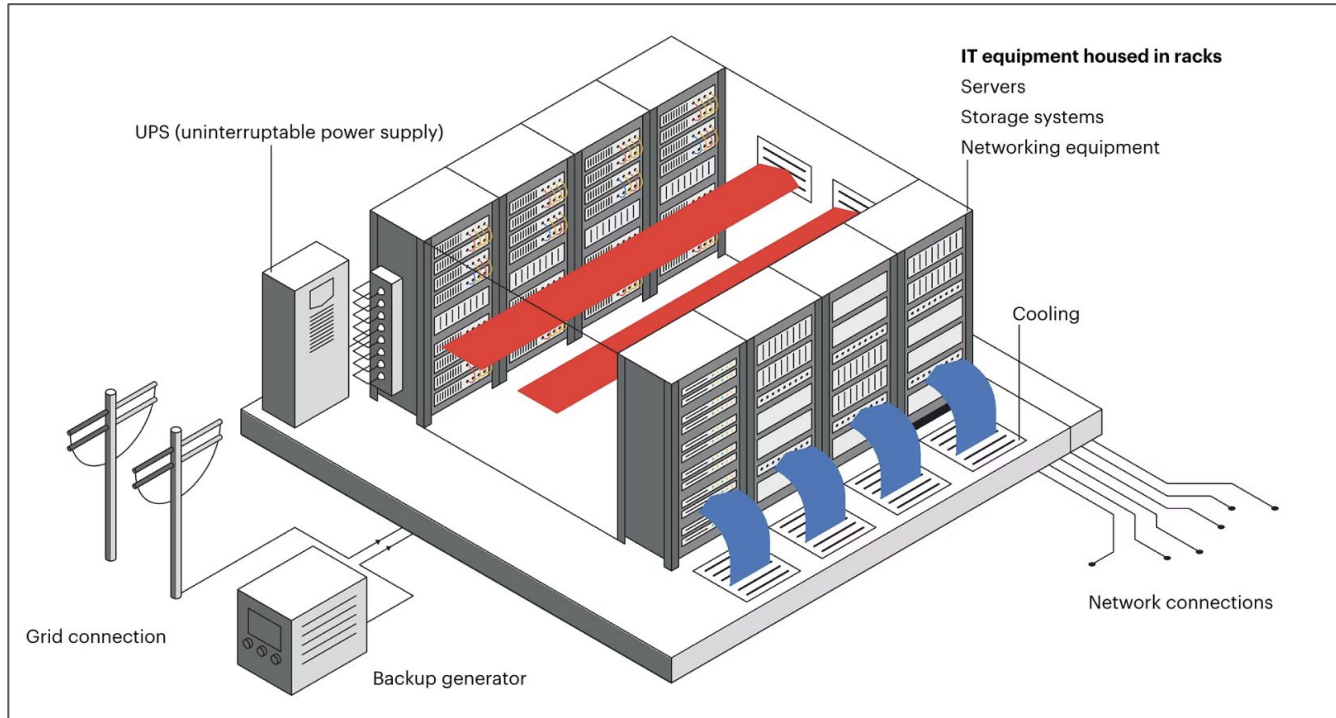
For most people, individual use of gen AI is a very small part of your carbon footprint

[How much energy does ChatGPT use?](#)

[What's the carbon footprint of using ChatGPT or Gemini?](#)



Data Centers



[Energy demand from AI](#) - IEA

Backup generators often have terrible fumes.



AI & Environmental Impact

Some lifestyle choices save more CO2 than others

Annual carbon dioxide savings, in metric tons, of various personal lifestyle changes



Chart: Mirko Lorenz • Source: [Founders Pledge](#) • [Get the data](#)



Resources & Info on AI Impact

Individuals

- [Hannah Ritchie](#)
- [Jonathan Koomey](#)
- [Andy Masley](#)
- [Azheem Azhar](#)
- [Bill McKibben](#)

Organizations/publications

- [International Energy Agency \(IEA\)](#)
- [Ember Energy](#)
- [Epoch AI](#)
- [Volts podcast](#)



Therapeutic Chatbots

Therapeutic chatbots are AI-powered conversational tools designed to support mental health and emotional well-being through structured, evidence-informed interactions. They are not therapists and do not replace clinical care, but they can complement services by offering psychoeducation, skills practice, and between-session support.

[APA Guidance on Therapeutic Chatbots](#)



AI Resources



- [AI Prompt Library for Social Workers](#)
- [The AI Social Worker Blog](#)
- [AI Tools](#)
- [AI Agency Template](#)



AI Resources & Dementia Care



- [Smart Devices & Dementia Care](#)
- [Alexa and Dementia Care](#)
- [AI Transforming Caregiving](#)
- [How AI is changing family caregiving](#)



Scholarly Sources



Kameyama, M., & Umeda-Kameyama, Y. (2024). Applications of artificial intelligence in dementia. *Geriatrics & Gerontology International*, 24, 25-30.

[Link to the Article](#)

Steijger, D., Christie, H., Aarts, S., IJsselsteijn, W., Verbeek, H., & de Vugt, M. (2025). Use of artificial intelligence to support quality of life of people with dementia: A scoping review. *Ageing Research Reviews*, 108, 102741. [Link to the Article](#)

Veneziani, I., Marra, A., Formica, C., Grimaldi, A., Marino, S., Quartarone, A., & Maresca, G. (2024). Applications of artificial intelligence in the neuropsychological assessment of dementia: A systematic review. *Journal of Personalized Medicine*, 14(1), 113. [Link to the article](#)

Wolfe, B. H., Oh, Y. J., Choung, H., Cui, X., Weinzapfel, J., Cooper, R. A., ... & Lehto, R. (2025). Caregiving artificial intelligence chatbot for older adults and their preferences, well-being, and social connectivity: mixed-method study. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 27, e65776. [Link to article](#)



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THANK YOU!

