AI in health care

What we heard

What was the goal of this member engagement?

As physicians seek solutions to help reduce burdens and provide better patient care, Artificial intelligence (AI) can help automate tasks, manage clinical workflows, and gain powerful insights to improve patient outcomes. As AI becomes further integrated into BC's health care system, there are benefits and risks that need to be considered.

Doctors of BC wanted to understand your perspectives on AI tools, the priority areas we should advocate for to guide the responsible integration of AI tools in health care, and what learning opportunities you seek to enhance your literacy and confidence in using AI.

How did we seek member input?

Representative Assembly

15 small-group discussions with 100+ members to seek physicians' input on key considerations to inform the development of a policy statement on AI in health care.

All-member engagement

Interactive online engagement to inform the development of Doctors of BC's policy statement on AI in health care and identify learning opportunities.

What did we ask?

We asked members to identify:

The top 3 priority areas we should advocate on

What, if any, AI tools they are using

Areas of interest for learning

Participants

140 members

Type of practice

Family physician: **72%**
Specialist: **28%**

Practice setting

Community-based: **48%**
Facility-based: **19%**
Both: **33%**

Geographic setting

Urban: **62%**
Semi-urban: **15%**
Rural: **23%**

What did we learn?

Physicians expressed mixed feelings about AI tools. While some are eager to adopt AI tools into their practice or have already done so, others are hesitant without the appropriate safeguards in place and without understanding the implications of these tools on patients, doctors, and the health care system.

Key takeaways:

■ Physicians want Doctors of BC to support their active involvement in designing, planning, implementing, and evaluating AI tools.

■ Robust data and privacy safeguards are needed to ensure health professionals feel comfortable using AI tools and confident that sensitive patient data will not be compromised.

■ AI tools must be subject to ongoing monitoring and evaluation to assess performance, identify potential algorithmic biases, and implement corrective actions as needed.

■ AI tools can help alleviate physician burdens; however, policies and standards are needed to capture their full benefits. This includes regulation and the development of guidance, training, and other resources to support effective AI integration and reduce administrative and operational burdens.

■ The environmental impacts of AI tools must be considered.

■ While AI tools can support physicians in various tasks, human and clinical oversight should continue to play a fundamental role in medicine.

## Opportunities to enhance AI literacy and support physician understanding of:

■ How to select and integrate AI into clinical workflows.

■ The operational and professional impacts of AI (e.g., the technical and practical limitations of AI tools, including their accuracy).

■ The legal, privacy, and security concerns associated with AI tools (to safeguard patient confidentiality and consent).

What's next?

The results from our RA and online member engagement informed the development of Doctors of BC's policy statement on **AI in Health Care**.

Doctors of BC will continue to use these findings to further inform our advocacy work and help shape AI-related resources and supports for members.

Physicians who report already using AI tools in their practice

Yes 45%
No 55%
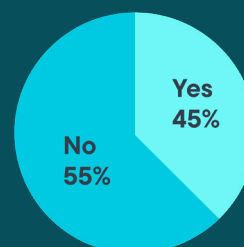
Additional supports identified to help physicians use AI tools

Vetted AI tools to reduce medico-legal risks

Practice supports to help optimize clinical workflow

Flexible patient consent forms and patient education

Sustainable financial resources