

AI Data Policy and Discourse Among Healthcare Institutions

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INTRODUCTION

AI is transforming healthcare and while we have some understanding of the implications for ethics and privacy, we know very little about how the healthcare industry is tackling them. AI has so far been credited with making healthcare data more meaningful and efficient and focusing care to be more preventative. Clinicians may struggle to deal with massive amounts of patient data when making diagnosis or stay up-to-date with the latest medical advances[1]. Perhaps more critically, they may simply not be able to see risks and thus predict and prevent outcomes without the support of AI.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- **RQ1:** What are institutions' cyber and information policies as they relate to AI? e.g., What policies exist to regulate the merging of data sets and predictive use of data from privacy violations? What policies exist to regulate the unintended use of data for the purposes of AI?
- **RQ2:** For those that do stipulate policies relating cyber/information security with AI, how consistent and comprehensive are these policies? Are there similarities between policy Statements of healthcare institutions sampled?
- **RQ3:** How do institutions talk/think about the relationship between cyber and Information security protections (e.g., secure storage, data integrity, bias, sharing with third-party, etc.) and the data they collect for use in AI in their blog publications?)

METHODS

We reviewed the policy statements and blogs of 25 medical institutions in the US with the goal of finding out how they talk about privacy and security issues relating to AI. Information security policies typically contain a summary of initiatives and best practices that employees and developers strive to adhere to, and the public documentation is an outward facing statement of these practices to their patients and interested parties.

Table 1. Sources of policy information and number of mentions

Institution	Policy	Blogs	Mentions of AI	No. of mentions
HCA Healthcare	no	yes	yes	2
Veteran's Health Administration	no	yes	yes	4
Prime Healthcare	no	yes	no	0
Sanford Health	no	yes	yes	2
UPMC	yes	yes	yes	2
Christus Health	yes	yes	yes	1

FINDINGS

Our findings section first reviews information security policies, then gives a descriptive account of what was found by reviewing blog posts.

4.1 Review of Information Security Policies

We reviewed the policies of all 25 health institutions selected to find if their policy documents referred to AI, privacy, ethics and bias but we were more interested in the information security section of these documentation.

4.2 Review of Blog Posts

Seventeen (17) out of 25 health organizations had blogs. Five (5) out of 17 institutions had blog articles that mention AI; 2 had blogs that mention ethics and privacy as they relate to AI.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

- We found that many healthcare institutions are using AI in far reaching ways but have not formalized policies with regards to AI data privacy and ethics. While many more institutions do discuss AI applications and data use in their blogs, these blog posts very often lack discussion—or reassurance.
- Further qualitative analysis will be done to answer the research questions described in this paper. We believe this work will benefit researcher and practitioner communities interested in healthcare and the use of A

REFERENCES

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