

Ethics and Health Accreditation Standards in the Era of Artificial Intelligence

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INTRODUCTION

The rapid proliferation of artificial intelligence (AI) applications in the field of healthcare raises ethical concerns. Accreditation standards in healthcare, which serve as important tools in ensuring quality and patient safety, should incorporate regulations for managing ethical concerns.

AIM

The aim of this study is to evaluate the readiness of accreditation standards that could contribute to managing potential ethical issues in the provision of AI-based healthcare services, based on the key ethical principles adopted by the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding the use of AI technologies in healthcare, and to identify areas that require improvement.

METHOD

The study was conducted as a descriptive and explanatory case study. The Healthcare Accreditation Standards (HAS) Hospital Set (v3.0/2021) of the Türkiye Healthcare Quality and Accreditation Institute which holds international accreditation, was used in the study. All accreditation standards and assessment criteria in the set were evaluated within the framework of WHO six key ethical principles, and document content analysis was conducted using the MAXQDA qualitative analysis program..

RESULTS

As a result of the study, it was determined that updates and additions should be made through regulation to 35 assessment criteria for the protection of human autonomy, 39 for the promotion of human well-being, safety, and public interest, 43 for ensuring transparency, explicability, and intelligibility, 62 for fostering responsibility and accountability, 24 for ensuring inclusivity and equity, and 19 for promoting responsible and sustainable artificial intelligence, all based on WHO ethical principles. Additionally, it was found that new standards and assessment criteria are needed for ensuring data privacy and security, algorithmic transparency and explicability, fairness and bias reduction, robustness, and reliability.

Table 1: Evaluation according to SAS sections according to "WHO basic ethical principles on the use of artificial intelligence in health

HAS Sections	WHO Key ethical principles for use of artificial intelligence for health					
	Protect autonomy (n)	Promote human well-being, human safety and the public interest (n)	Ensure transparency, explicability and intelligibility (n)	Foster responsibility and accountability (n)	Ensure inclusiveness and equity (n)	Promote artificial intelligence that is responsive and sustainable (n)
Organizational Structure	1	3	3	5	1	1
Core Policies and Values	1	1	1	4	5	3
Document management	2	2	2	1	0	0
Human Resources Management	2	2	2	5	4	3
Adverse Event Reporting System	1	1	1	3	0	2
Risk Management	1	1	1	5	0	1
Education Management	1	1	1	3	0	3
Corporate Communications	1	1	1	0	3	0
Monitoring Indicators	0	1	1	6	0	2
Basic Patient Rights	6	4	8	6	3	0
Patient Safety	1	2	2	3	0	2
Access to Service	0	0	0	0	0	1
Medication Management	2	2	2	0	0	0
Patient care	2	2	2	4	1	0
Radiation Safety	1	1	1	0	0	0
Laboratory Services	2	3	3	0	0	0
Safe Surgery	4	4	4	1	0	0
Emergency Health Services	4	4	4	0	0	0
Facility Management	0	1	1	0	0	0
Information Management	1	1	1	5	5	0
Material & Device Management	1	1	1	7	0	0
Outsourcing	0	0	0	3	2	1
Emergency Management	1	1	1	1	0	0
TOTAL	35	39	43	62	24	19

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, while existing accreditation standards can be a valuable assessment tool in preventing ethical issues and reducing concerns arising from the use of artificial intelligence in healthcare, it can be said that some updates and improvements are needed.