INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE, TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Institute of Medicine AI Policy 2026

Office of the Dean, Institute of Medicine, Tribhuvan University
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Foreword

The development of the IOM Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy 2026 at the Institute of Medicine (IOM), Tribhuvan University, marks an important milestone in strengthening the ethical, responsible, and effective use of AI in medical education, research, healthcare, and institutional administration.

AI is transforming the practice of medicine at an unprecedented pace. AI literacy has now become an essential competency for students, educators, researchers, clinicians, and administrators alike. From enhancing clinical decision-making and advancing biomedical research to improving educational methodologies and healthcare delivery, AI offers immense opportunities for innovation and progress. As a leading academic and healthcare institution, IOM has a responsibility not only to embrace these emerging technologies but also to promote their responsible, ethical, and transparent use.

This Policy has been developed to guide the IOM community in understanding, adopting, and utilizing AI technologies in a manner that upholds academic integrity, professional ethics, patient safety, data privacy, and human dignity. It outlines the principles, policies, procedures, and responsibilities governing the use of AI within the Institute. The document has been prepared in alignment with relevant institutional, national, and international frameworks and aims to support stakeholders in harnessing the benefits of AI while mitigating potential risks and challenges.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the coordinator and members of the Policy Drafting Committee for their dedication and hard work in developing this important document. Their collective efforts reflect our shared commitment in enhancing an environment of innovation, accountability, integrity, and respect for human values.

I encourage all faculty members, students, researchers, healthcare professionals, and staff to familiarize themselves with this Policy and to uphold the principles it embodies in their academic, research, clinical, and professional activities. Through responsible adoption of AI, we can collectively advance the mission of our institute and contribute to the development of a more effective, equitable, and future-ready healthcare system.

Prof. Dr. Mohan Raj Sharma, MD

Dean

Institute of Medicine, Tribhuvan University

POLICY DRAFTING COMMITTEE

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
API	Application Programming Interface
CONSORT-AI	Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials-AI
SPIRIT-AI	Standard Protocol Items: Recommendations for Interventional Trials-AI
DUA	Data Use Agreement
ICMJE	International Committee of Medical Journal Editors
IOM	Institute of Medicine
IP	Intellectual Property
IT	Information Technology
IRC	Institutional Review Committee
ML	Machine Learning
NHRC	Nepal Health Research Council
NMC	Nepal Medical Council
TRIPOD-AI	Transparent Reporting of a Multivariable Prediction Model for Individual Prognosis or Diagnosis – Artificial Intelligence
TU	Tribhuvan University
TUTH	Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital

CHAPTER 1

1. BACKGROUND

Following the directive of the Dean, Prof. Mohan Raj Sharma, the IOM AI Policy Development Committee was established on 2083/01/21 (May 4, 2026) with the mandate to formulate institutional guidelines for the responsible and ethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Developed in accordance with Nepal's National AI Policy 2025 and applicable AI-related acts, rules, and regulations of Tribhuvan University, the "Institute of Medicine AI Policy, 2026" serves as the institutional framework for AI governance and practice within the Institute of Medicine (IOM).

This policy will be implemented after the date of endorsement by the faculty board of IOM.

2. DEFINITIONS

Unless the subject or context implies otherwise, the following terms and definitions are used in this guideline:

Academic activities	Teaching, learning, examinations, assessments, curriculum development, academic writing, and other educational activities
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Computer systems, software, algorithms, machine learning systems, or digital technologies capable of performing tasks that normally require human intelligence, including learning, analysis, language processing, prediction, decision support, or problem-solving
AI system	Any AI-based software, application, platform, language model, decision-support system, or automated digital technology
Clinical activities	Patient diagnosis, treatment, clinical decision-making, hospital services, medical record management, and other healthcare-related activities
Confidential information	Institutional, academic, research, or patient-related information that is not authorized for public disclosure or unrestricted sharing.
Human oversight	Process through which AI-generated outputs, analyses, recommendations, or decisions are reviewed, verified, supervised, and approved by an authorized human authority
Institute	Institute of Medicine (IOM), Tribhuvan University
IT Department	Department of Information Technology under the Institute of Medicine
Permitted use	AI-related activities authorized under this policy
Prohibited use	AI-related activity expressly restricted or prohibited under this policy

Research activities	All activities related to medical, health sciences, biomedical, clinical, or academic research
Restricted use	AI-related activities requiring institutional approval, supervision, ethical clearance, or regulatory authorization
Sensitive data	Confidential, protected, personal, identifiable, institutional, patient-related, student-related, employee-related, or research-related information
University	Tribhuvan University
User	Any faculty member, student, clinician, researcher, staff member, or associated individual using AI systems, software, or digital tools within the scope of this policy

CHAPTER 2

INTRODUCTION, SCOPE, VISION, MISSION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Introduction

There has been a rapid evolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the last decade, which presents an unprecedented paradigm shift in modern medicine. This has not only facilitated research, education, and clinical services but has also raised issues of ethics and accountability.

Institute of Medicine (IOM), Tribhuvan University, one of the leading institutions in Nepal for medical education, research, and clinical services, recognizes both the potential and the ethical challenges associated with these technologies.

This "IOM AI Policy 2026" has been developed to ensure effective integration and governance of AI use, guiding our faculty, students/residents, and healthcare professionals in the ethical application of AI in medical education, research, and health care. Our core objective is to create an environment where AI serves as a powerful innovative tool while being used ethically and responsibly. We are committed to the principle that AI tools should enhance but never replace human clinical judgment.

The policy has been formulated in accordance with the "National AI Policy 2025," the NMC Code of Ethics (2017), and the directives of Tribhuvan University regarding Artificial Intelligence (2025), along with the prevalent practices being adopted by leading medical institutions and councils globally.

2. Scope

The IOM AI Policy 2026 applies to all the faculty members, clinical and administrative staff, residents and medical students of IOM, TU, including its constituent and affiliated hospitals and campuses/colleges across Nepal

3. Vision

Establish the IOM as a nationally and internationally recognized institution to integrate AI in medical education, research, and healthcare in an ethical, responsible, and human-centered manner

4. Mission

Integrate AI into academic, research, and health care activities, while preserving human judgment, ethical accountability, rigorous scientific integrity, and patient safety and privacy

5. Goals

1. Establish an ethical, transparent, and accountable institutional framework for the responsible integration and use of AI
2. Promote AI literacy, digital competency, and responsible AI practices among faculty members, clinicians, researchers, students, and administrative staff
3. Ensure that AI is used as a supportive and assistive tool that complements, but does not replace, human judgment, professional expertise, and accountability
4. Safeguard academic integrity, scientific integrity, patient privacy, confidentiality, and institutional data security in all AI-assisted activities
5. Define and regulate the permitted, restricted, and prohibited uses of AI in academic, research, clinical, and administrative functions
6. Strengthen institutional digital infrastructure, governance systems, and technical capacity for the sustainable and responsible adoption of AI
7. Promote transparency, continuous monitoring, quality assurance, and periodic evaluation of AI systems, practices, and outcomes

6. Objectives

1. Develop and implement institutional policies, guidelines, and standard operating procedures for the ethical, transparent, and responsible use of AI
2. Provide structured education, training, and capacity-building programs to improve AI literacy and competency among students, faculty, clinicians, researchers, and staff
3. Define acceptable, restricted, and prohibited AI-related activities across education, healthcare, research, and administration
4. Ensure meaningful human oversight, accountability, and professional responsibility in all AI-assisted decision-making and operational processes
5. Protect institutional, academic, research, and patient data through secure digital governance, cybersecurity measures, and confidentiality safeguards
6. Establish institutional mechanisms for governance, monitoring, reporting, risk assessment, compliance, and incident management related to AI use
7. Strengthen technical expertise, interdisciplinary collaboration, resource allocation, and institutional support systems necessary for sustainable AI integration and innovation
8. Promote regular review, quality assessment, and continuous improvement of AI-related policies, systems, and practices

CHAPTER 3

POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

1. Artificial Intelligence shall be used ethically, responsibly, transparently, and in accordance with academic, professional, and institutional standards

1.1 All users shall disclose the use of AI tools whenever AI has substantially contributed to academic work, clinical workflows, research activities, data analysis, interpretation, manuscript preparation, content generation, or decision-making processes

1.2 The use of AI in academic writing, scholarly publications, clinical documentation, and research activities shall comply with the guidelines and recommendations of Tribhuvan University (Tribhuvan University Anti-Plagiarism Software Management and Operation Regulations, 2080 (2023/2024), International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), and other applicable institutional, academic, professional, and regulatory standards

1.3 Users must maintain proper records of how AI tools are used, including prompts entered, AI-generated outputs, analyses or recommendations produced, and any related resource materials. Such records should be made available upon request by the institution for academic verification, ethical review, audit, investigation, or quality assurance purposes

2. The Institute shall promote AI literacy, digital competency, and ethical awareness among students, faculty, clinicians, researchers, and staff

2.1 Foundational AI concepts, along with their practical applications and ethical use, shall be integrated into the medical and health professional curriculum, as well as faculty and student development programs

2.2 Regular workshops, seminars, and training programs on AI in medical education, research, and healthcare shall be conducted for faculty and students under the leadership of the relevant campuses at least yearly

3. The Institute will implement the following regulatory mechanisms to govern the permitted, restricted, and prohibited use of AI in academic activities, research, and healthcare settings

3.1 **Permitted Use:** AI use may be permitted for supportive and low-risk activities, including:

i. Clarification of concepts related to academic content
ii. Grammar and language correction
iii. Literature search, evidence retrieval, and summarization
iv. Coding assistance and computational analysis
v. Copy editing and proofreading
vi. Supportive clinical documentation and routine administrative assistance under authorized supervision

3.2 **Restricted Use:** AI use shall remain restricted in activities that require institutional authorization and ethical approval from regulatory bodies like the Nepal Medical Council.

i. AI-assisted clinical documentation, diagnostic support, or research analysis under approved supervision

ii. Use of institutional, patient-related, confidential, or sensitive data only on approved and secure AI platforms

iii. AI-assisted activities involving theses, dissertations, grant reports, manuscripts, or formal academic submissions, which shall remain subject to review by the concerned authority or research department, with acceptable AI detection levels remaining below 20% (Tribhuvan University Anti-Plagiarism Software Management and Operation Regulations, 2080 (2023/2024).

iv. AI-assisted research or clinical analysis involving sensitive datasets without prior authorization from the concerned authority

3.3 Prohibited Use: AI use shall be prohibited in activities that compromise academic integrity, research validity, patient safety, confidentiality, legal obligations, or independent professional competency, including:

i. Submission of fully AI-generated work as original work

ii. Use of AI during examinations or assessments

iii. Use of AI in question formulation, moderation, and answer checking

iv. Use of AI to evaluate papers, manuscripts, and thesis

v. Use of AI to alter or enhance the image qualities of figures intended for scientific purposes

vi. Use of AI in calculating drug doses in clinical settings

vii. Reliance on AI systems to independently make high-stakes academic, clinical, administrative, disciplinary, diagnostic, or therapeutic decisions without meaningful human oversight and verification

4. All AI-assisted academic activities shall remain under meaningful human oversight, supervision, and accountability

4.1 Any academic, administrative, clinical, or research activity supported by AI shall remain under meaningful human supervision, professional accountability, and institutional oversight.

4.2 Responsible officials of individual campuses (executive authorities, department heads, supervising clinicians, research committees, or authorized institutional bodies) shall verify AI-generated content before implementation, public dissemination.

4.3 Scientific papers, clinical decisions, academic outputs, and institutional data repositories supported by AI shall remain under active human supervision, with final responsibility resting solely with the authorized human user.

4.4 Responsibility and accountability for outcomes arising from AI-assisted activities shall remain with the human user and the supervising authority, and not with the AI system.

5. All AI-related activities shall comply with standards of patient confidentiality and privacy protection

5.1 The upload of confidential institutional, patient, student, research, or protected data into unauthorized, unsecured, or public AI platforms is strictly prohibited.

5.2 AI-related activities shall comply with applicable national and international laws, institutional data protection policies, clinical trial regulations, and cybersecurity standards.

5.3 All data operations involving AI shall be conducted only through approved and secure digital systems and institutional networks.

5.4 No data shall be shared with a third party without prior institutional authorization.

5.5 Any data breach, cybersecurity incident, unauthorized disclosure, or misuse involving AI systems or sensitive institutional data shall be promptly reported to the concerned authority through the Department of IT of IOM.

5.6 The Department of IT, IOM shall coordinate institutional monitoring, incident response, and implementation of cybersecurity safeguards related to AI activities.

6. Institutional mechanisms shall be established for the governance, close monitoring, implementation, periodic assessment, and review of AI-related activities

6.1 Monitoring, implementation, and compliance evaluation of institutional AI policies shall remain under the responsibility of the Department of IT of IOM.

6.2 The policy shall be periodically reviewed and updated according to contemporary needs and standards.

6.3 All the concerned units or departments of campuses/colleges shall maintain records of their significant AI-related activities and regularly communicate such activities to the Department of IT of IOM.

6.4 The Department of IT, IOM shall serve as the institutional body for reporting, reviewing, and addressing concerns related to AI misuse

7. The Institute shall strengthen its infrastructure and technical capacity necessary for sustainable AI integration

7.1 To encourage a sustainable integration of AI in medical education, research, and health care across its campuses and colleges, the Institute shall progressively strengthen its digital infrastructure and technical manpower.

7.2 The institute shall establish collaborations with various national and international institutions and technology experts to strengthen its AI capacity.

8. AI Usage Matrix in Research Manuscripts

	AI Application	Policy Status	Action Required
1	**Ideation & Literature Search**	Allowed	No specific disclosure required
2	**Data Analysis/ Custom Coding**	Allowed	Code must be deposited in a public repository (e.g., GitHub) and documented
3	**Grammatical corrections and copy editing**	Allowed	Disclose tool usage in the Acknowledgments section
4	**Drafting Substantive Text / Sections**	Prohibited	Must disclose the exact prompts and sections generated; text must be heavily verified for "hallucinations"

			Generating a large number of texts from AI will significantly discourage scientific productivity of the scholar whenever exceeding 20% of the content
5	**Image/Data Generation**	Prohibited	Fabricating or augmenting research images (like blots, radiographs) or generating synthetic patient cohorts without explicit methodological approval is treated as scientific misconduct.

9. Any clarification concerning the contents of this document shall rest with the faculty board of IOM.

10. References

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