

Dr. Chatbot: Understanding the Regulatory Requirements for Artificial Intelligence in Health Care

WRITTEN BY

[Erin S. Whaley](#) | [Emma E. Trivax](#)

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Can artificial intelligence (AI) be my new doctor? Maybe. There do not appear to be many guardrails stopping AI from acting as such. Recently I put various symptoms into an AI chatbot and asked it to diagnose me. The chatbot responded with its best approximation of what was wrong with me, then suggested I follow up with the doctor. I did it a second time, with different symptoms, and again it diagnosed me, then suggested I follow up with a doctor. Is this different from entering my symptoms into Google and seeing the top result from WebMD? Or submitting my symptoms into a symptom checker online? It feels different — likely because the chatbot's response was personally tailored to me. Is this considered practicing medicine?

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