New Zealand College of Midwives
Te Kāreti o ngā Kaiwhakawhānau ki Aotearoa

Advisory Statement:

AI in midwifery practice – July 2025

Advice for midwives: Artificial intelligence (AI) transcription tools.

- Health New Zealand (HNZ) | Te Whatu Ora has a Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy which is intended to apply to everyone who works with or within HNZ. Midwives who are using (or are considering using) AI transcription tools need to be aware of the HNZ policy.
- The policy provides rationale as to why midwives are at risk if they use AI programmes which have not gone through a recognised "approval" process. Further, the policy prohibits HNZ employed staff from relying on clinical records generated by unapproved AI systems. This may create practical issues when staff are asked to rely on information from AI generated LMC clinical documentation.
- The Privacy Commissioner has raised a number of concerns and expectations to be considered in any assessment made prior to the AI in question being used. Until such time as HNZ approval is obtained, midwives who are using unapproved AI transcription tools are at risk of breaching the Privacy Act.
- The College understands that HNZ continues to undertake work to assess the safety of commercially available AI tools and authorise selected options for clinical practice. The College recommends midwives only use tools endorsed by HNZ.
- **As of July 2025, HNZ has endorsed two subscription-based ambient AI Scribe tools following review by the National Artificial Intelligence and Algorithm Expert Advisory Group (NAIAEAG): iMedX and the enterprise version of Heidi (note: the free version of Heidi is not endorsed).**
- Midwives who wish to use generative AI in practice now have the option of either iMedX or the enterprise version of Heidi, both of which are subscription-based tools that have passed HNZ's privacy, security, and clinical safety assessments. Midwives working in an employed setting may need to follow internal approval processes.
- The College recognises the potential value of generative AI in practice for midwives who wish to use this technology. We will keep members informed of professional and policy developments as they occur.

Further information

There has been rapid development of AI tools for clinical use, and members continue to request advice from the College about the use of AI transcription tools in midwifery practice for clinical record keeping. The HNZ policy dated February 2024 on Generative Artificial Intelligence applies to everyone who works with or within Health NZ, including permanent, seconded, contracted and temporary employees; volunteers; students and others.

The College therefore understands that it is intended to apply to all midwives, including LMC midwives and midwives employed directly by HNZ.

The use of any LLMs [Large Language Models] or Generative AI requires endorsement by the HNZ National Artificial Intelligence and Algorithm Expert Advisory Group (NAIAEAG). Only those tools with NAIAEAG endorsement can be used within front line healthcare.

The College has sought legal advice and as a result of this, advises members that at this point in time, using unapproved commercially available AI transcription tools will place them at risk of not meeting the requirements of the HNZ policy or the Privacy Act. Identified risks with using unapproved AI transcription tools relate to privacy, meeting informed consent requirements, and unforeseen consequences of under-assessed tools.

Tuhi is a locally developed AI transcription tool that may be available to midwives in a pilot context, subject to specific agreements with HNZ. Members who are interested in participating in this pilot are advised to contact the College for details.

Glossary

Definitions for terms used in this advisory align with those of Health NZ:

Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Artificial intelligence (AI) is the capability of computational systems to perform tasks typically associated with human intelligence, such as learning, reasoning, problem-solving, perception, and decision-making.
Generative AI	Generative AI refers to a prompt based, general purpose AI, built on very large data sets. They may be based on “large language models” or they may be multi-modal, allowing textual and non-textual inputs (e.g. images, audio or video) and outputs.
Large Language Models (LLM)	Large Language Models (LLMs) are Generative AI algorithms used to generate text-based content. LLMs are pre-trained on massively large data sets of written human language and have the ability to predict subsequent words with a pseudorandom component.