Policy Name: Transparent Use of AI in Radiology Reporting

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that patients of SCP Radiology are duly informed of the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to support the analysis of their medical images and the generation of radiology reports that may inform medical treatment decisions.

2. Scope

This policy may apply to all individuals undergoing diagnostic imaging or image-guided treatment procedures at SCP Radiology for whom radiology reports are generated.

3. Definition

Artificial Intelligence is a computer system that can, to some extent, work independently, using the information it receives to make decisions, predictions, or recommendations. It uses programmed rules and calculations (called algorithms) to analyse data and produce a set of results to assist professionals in carrying out work more accurately and efficiently.

4. Policy statement

At SCP Radiology, AI is used to support radiologists by improving consistency, efficiency, and accuracy in their reporting with the ultimate intention of improving patient diagnoses and outcomes. The practice uses AI only as a support tool and AI does not replace the radiologist's clinical judgment. A qualified radiologist will always review the images, provide the final clinical interpretation, prepare or sign off on the final report, and maintain the final clinical responsibility for each report. AI systems do not provide diagnoses or make treatment decisions. Patient data is not used for the training of AI algorithms and is kept confidential.

The practice wishes to disclose the following:

4.1 AI in use

Accelerated sequencing: AI-supported tools may be used for advanced image reconstruction from limited scan data, enabling reduced scan times while maintaining diagnostic image quality or increased scanned resolution with the same scan times.

Image analysis: AI algorithms are used to analyse chest X-rays, CT scans, and mammography images for signs of specific pathologies. These systems support clinical prioritisation by flagging

scans with features that suggest urgent findings and by highlighting areas of potential concern for further assessment by a radiologist. AI is used to assist in the quantitative assessment of structures or pathology in certain cases, such as prostate Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI).
Reporting support: AI-supported tools that may assist radiologists in the generation of reports in any modalities include report structuring, the provision of measurements, comparisons with prior studies, and natural language assistance.

This document will be updated as the practice deploys additional AI modules.

4.2 Safety and accuracy

The AI systems operate using predefined rules and thresholds that are designed and tested for clinical use. These settings are informed by medical evidence, professional standards, and patient-safety considerations. The tools in use meet all the necessary regulatory and safety standards. Although most systems in use were developed outside of South Africa, the practice's AI committee regularly reviews the tools' applicability to South African patients to ensure ethical acceptability, address potential biases, promote accuracy, and ensure reliability. The practice's radiologists continuously review the AI's performance to ensure ongoing accuracy and safety.

4.3 Security and further machine learning

The AI tools in use are locked learners and do not continuously learn or adapt to new data. Improved capabilities are introduced through controlled updates. The tools are used in a secure environment. No patient or clinical data generated or processed through these AI systems is shared to public datasets for secondary purposes. Clinical data used for quality control and improvement purposes remains within the secure practice-vendor environment.

4.4 Benefits and risks

AI support tools benefit patients by enhancing image and report quality and accuracy, and often shortening imaging time. This facilitates faster treatment decisions and appropriate patient care. It also enhances practice efficiency and improves the patient experience. AI helps radiologists work more efficiently and may enable earlier detection of certain conditions.

Like all medical tools, AI tools have limitations (such as sensitivity and specificity limits) and may not detect all abnormalities. AI cannot account for all clinical factors. AI is not a substitute for a radiologist's expert evaluation. The risk to patients is low, as qualified radiologists are responsible for final decision-making and reporting, and ongoing safety and performance review of all AI support tools.

5. **Consent**

AI support tools are integrated into workflows in the aforementioned manner. By consenting to imaging at SCP Radiology, patients consent to the responsible and ethical use of AI as deemed appropriate by the practitioners of this practice.

6. Review and updates

This policy should be reviewed and updated annually to ensure continued accuracy and applicability.

Summary:	This policy ensures that patients of SCP Radiology are duly informed of the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to support the analysis of their medical images and the generation of radiology reports that may inform medical treatment decisions.		
Keywords	Transparent use of AI in radiology reporting		
Target Audience:	All individuals undergoing diagnostic imaging or image-guided treatment procedures at SCP Radiology for whom radiology reports are generated.		
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