

Education to four nursing students. Eligible candidates are enrolled in a nursing school as a prelicensure entry level student (AAS, ADN or BSN), an RN to BSN student, an MSN student, or a doctoral student. Check the Region 6 microsite for details on the next application cycle – **DEADLINE for applications is October 15, 2026.**

Call for Nominations: It's never too early to think about taking on a leadership role in Region 6. Contact Suzanne Penna, Chair of Nominations, at pennas@mskcc.org to learn more about the many Region 6 leadership positions. At the end of 2026, the term of office will expire for the positions of Secretary, Director to Congress on Policy

and Practice, and County Chairs. There are always opportunities to participate in Region 6 committees: Meeting planning, Nominating, or Scholarship. Support Region 6 by joining a committee. It's a great way to learn more about leadership in Region 6.

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Artificial Intelligence and Nursing: Preparing for a New Clinical Reality

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Last semester, a student asked me whether it was acceptable to use an artificial intelligence (AI) platform to summarize a complex clinical guideline. The question sparked an important discussion. The issue was not whether the student could access information using AI, but whether they could evaluate the accuracy of that information and apply it appropriately to patient care. As we discussed the strengths and limitations of AI-generated content, it became clear that today's nurse must develop the skills to critically evaluate AI outputs while maintaining accountability for patient care. As AI becomes increasingly integrated into healthcare, AI literacy is emerging as an essential nursing competency.

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming healthcare, and nursing is no exception. From clinical decision-support systems to ambient documentation tools that generate clinical notes, AI is becoming integrated into healthcare delivery. As healthcare organizations explore AI-enabled technologies, nurses will be called upon to evaluate their impact on patient care, safety, and professional practice.

Nurses already encounter AI in their workplaces, often without realizing it. Electronic health records use predictive algorithms to identify patients at risk for deterioration, falls, or readmission. AI-powered

documentation tools can summarize patient encounters and assist with charting. Recent studies have demonstrated that AI-assisted documentation can reduce administrative burden, improve efficiency, and decrease clinician burnout, allowing providers to spend more time focused on patient care (Duggan et al., 2025).

While AI offers significant opportunities, it is not without limitations. AI systems may generate inaccurate information, perpetuate bias, or fail to recognize important clinical nuances. For this reason, AI should never replace professional nursing judgment. Rather, it should be viewed as a tool that supports clinical decision-making while preserving the nurse's responsibility for patient assessment, interpretation of data, and clinical reasoning. Nurses remain accountable for evaluating and validating AI-generated information before incorporating it into practice (El-Banna et al., 2025).

The growing presence of AI in healthcare highlights the need for AI literacy among nurses. AI literacy extends beyond learning how to use technology; it includes understanding the capabilities and limitations of AI, recognizing ethical concerns, protecting patient privacy, and critically evaluating AI-generated recommendations (El-Banna et al., 2025).

Nursing education also plays a critical

role in preparing future nurses for an AI-enhanced healthcare environment. Rather than focusing solely on preventing students from using AI tools, educators should help students learn to use them responsibly. Emerging evidence suggests that AI-assisted learning can enhance student engagement and readiness for practice when paired with reflective learning and critical thinking activities (Cucci et al., 2025).

Whether practicing at the bedside, in primary care, administration, or academia, nurses have an opportunity to shape how AI is integrated into healthcare. By embracing lifelong learning and maintaining a commitment to critical thinking and patient advocacy, the nursing profession can help ensure that AI serves as a tool to enhance, not replace the human connection at the heart of nursing. ■

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