AI on Friday

What to Know, Why It Matters

Issue 07, 9 October 2026

Pan American Health Organization
World Health Organization
Americas Region

Information Systems and Digital Health Unit
Department of Evidence and Intelligence for Action in Health

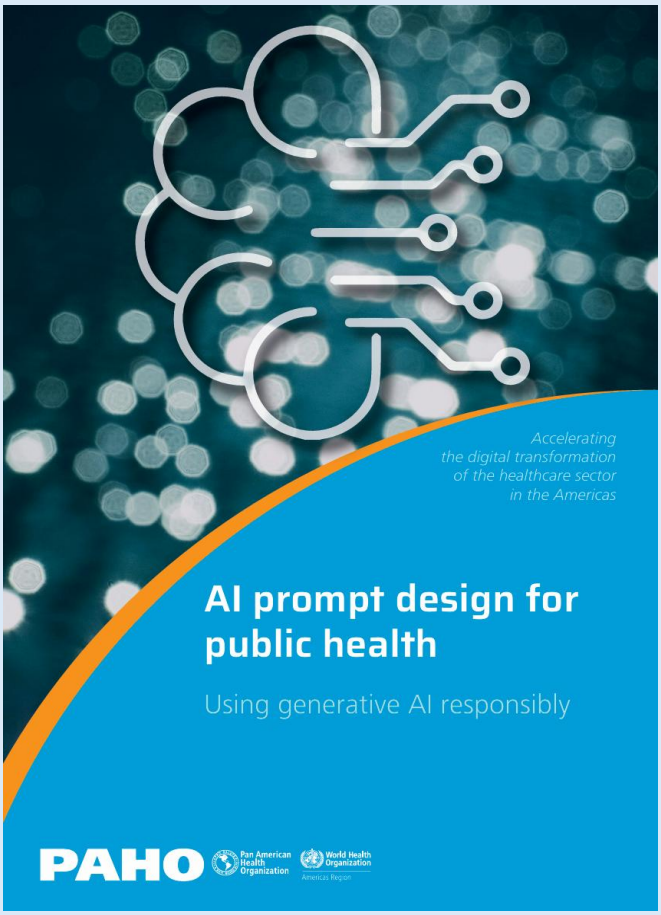
This weekly email shares key **publications and articles** authored by PAHO Staff and experts.

AI -GUARD TOOL



The tool helps ministries of health, public health agencies, hospitals, and other institutions make informed, transparent, and evidence-based decisions, promoting the safe, ethical, and sustainable use of artificial intelligence to improve public health outcomes.

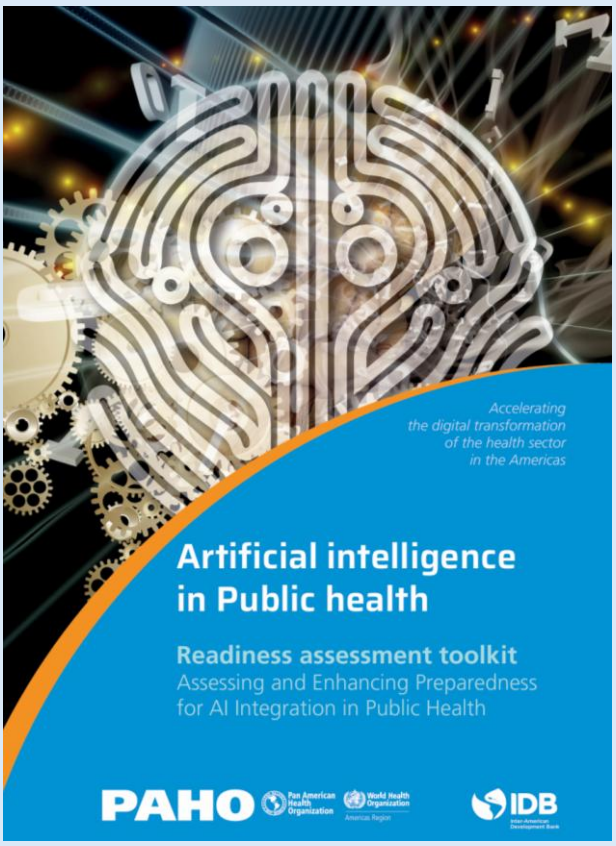
AI Prompt design for Public Health



The publication breaks down the essential parts of a prompt, such as its objective, audience, format, tone, and context, offering practical ways to avoid common mistakes that lead to vague, inaccurate, or useless results. Ultimately, the publication stresses that human oversight is crucial for checking and approving all AI-generated material making prompt design a fundamental skill for the public health sector's digital future.

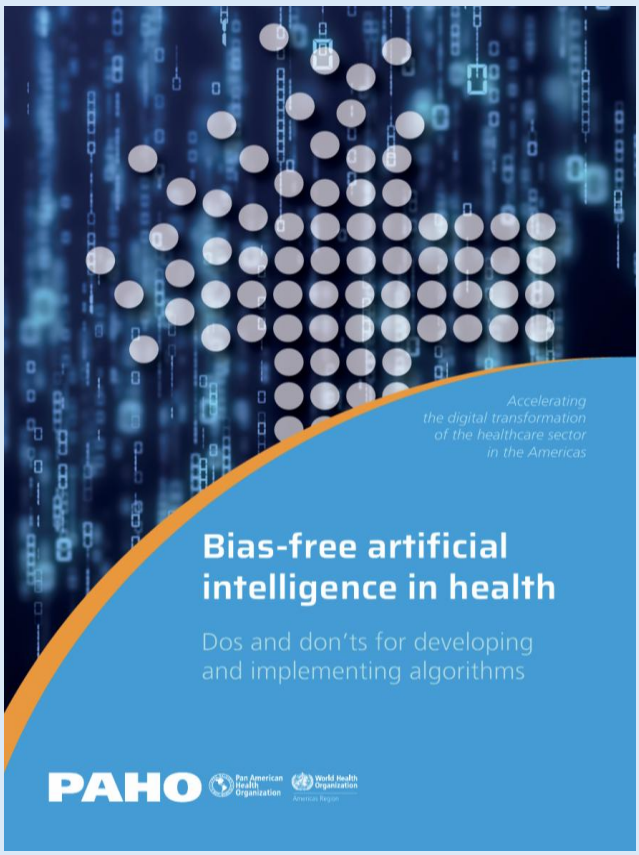
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AI Readiness Assessment Toolkit



Through this new tool, PAHO and the IDB reaffirm their commitment to support the digital evolution of health sectors, ensuring that countries can leverage innovative solutions to improve health outcomes.

Bias Free AI in Health



This publication offers a practical framework to guide governments, health authorities, and partners in developing and implementing AI systems that are both responsible and effective.

PAHO's Virtual Campus



Free access here: Link

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JMIR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SURVEILLANCE — Barbosa da Silva Jr et al

Viewpoint

Bias-Mitigated AI as a Foundation for Resilient and Effective Health Systems

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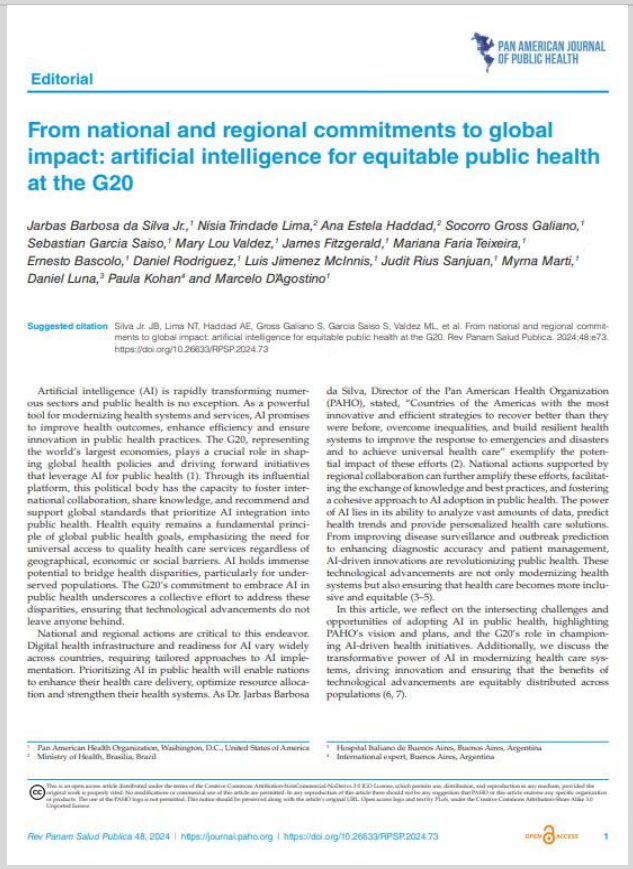
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Abstract

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping the landscape of health care, from clinical diagnostics and disease surveillance to the prediction of individual health risks. Yet, its immense promise will only materialize if the tools we deploy work for everyone. Algorithms trained on incomplete or biased datasets risk embedding historical health disparities and can replicate patterns of uneven data representation, thereby limiting accuracy and generalizability across population groups. Addressing algorithmic bias should be treated as a core health quality standard, comparable in importance to safety and efficacy evaluations, to ensure consistent performance across all segments of the population. This paper aims to frame algorithmic bias in health-related AI as a quality, safety, and governance challenge for health systems rather than solely a technical problem for developers. It aims to inform policymakers, regulators, health system leaders, and developers by translating existing scientific evidence and regulatory guidance into operational governance considerations, with particular attention to the realities of low- and middle-income settings in the region of the Americas. This paper synthesizes existing knowledge and institutional experience into a practical, regionally grounded policy perspective. To operationalize this perspective, this paper first outlines the main forms of algorithmic bias relevant to health systems—including representation, measurement, aggregation, and deployment biases—and illustrates how each can emerge across the AI lifecycle. It then situates these technical challenges within the broader digital health context, where structural, commercial, and social dynamics may amplify inequities. This paper discusses the implications of biased data for emerging areas such as precision medicine before proposing a governance-oriented framework for bias mitigation that spans design, validation, deployment, and postmarket monitoring. It concludes with priority governance actions for policymakers, regulators, and health system leaders to embed fairness as a measurable component of health system performance.

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Keywords: primary health care; artificial intelligence; digital health; bias in artificial intelligence; AI



PAN AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Editorial

From national and regional commitments to global impact: artificial intelligence for equitable public health at the G20

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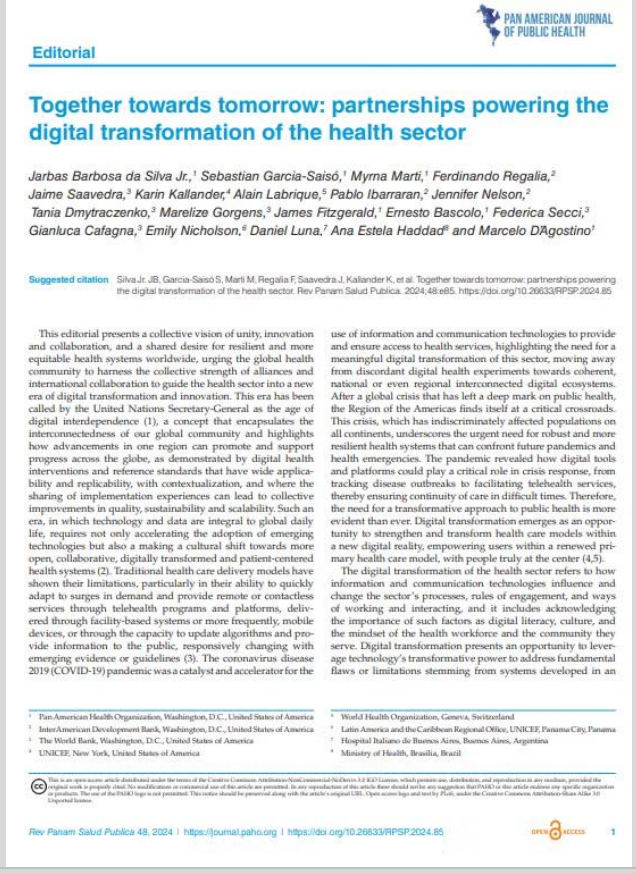
Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming numerous sectors and public health is no exception. As a powerful tool for modernizing health systems and services, AI promises to improve health outcomes, enhance efficiency and ensure innovation in public health practices. The G20, representing the world's largest economies, plays a crucial role in shaping global health policies and driving forward initiatives that leverage AI for public health (1). Through its influential platform, this political body has the capacity to foster international collaboration, share knowledge, and recommend and support global standards that prioritize AI integration into public health. Health equity remains a fundamental principle of global public health goals, emphasizing the need for universal access to quality health care services regardless of geographical, economic or social barriers. AI holds immense potential to bridge health disparities, particularly for underserved populations. The G20's commitment to embrace AI in public health underscores a collective effort to address these disparities, ensuring that technological advancements do not leave anyone behind.

National and regional actions are critical to this endeavor. Digital health infrastructure and readiness for AI vary widely across countries, requiring tailored approaches to AI implementation. Prioritizing AI in public health will enable nations to enhance their health care delivery, optimize resource allocation and strengthen their health systems. As Dr. Jarbas Barbosa da Silva, Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), stated, "Countries of the Americas with the most innovative and efficient strategies to recover better than they were before, overcome inequalities, and build resilient health systems to improve the response to emergencies and disasters and to achieve universal health care" exemplify the potential impact of these efforts (2). National actions supported by regional collaboration can further amplify these efforts, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices, and fostering a cohesive approach to AI adoption in public health. The power of AI lies in its ability to analyze vast amounts of data, predict health trends and provide personalized health care solutions. From improving disease surveillance and outbreak prediction to enhancing diagnostic accuracy and patient management, AI-driven innovations are revolutionizing public health. These technological advancements are not only modernizing health systems but also ensuring that health care becomes more inclusive and equitable (3–5).

In this article, we reflect on the intersecting challenges and opportunities of adopting AI in public health, highlighting PAHO's vision and plans, and the G20's role in championing AI-driven health initiatives. Additionally, we discuss the transformative power of AI in modernizing health care systems, driving innovation and ensuring that the benefits of technological advancements are equitably distributed across populations (6, 7).

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PAN AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Editorial

Together towards tomorrow: partnerships powering the digital transformation of the health sector

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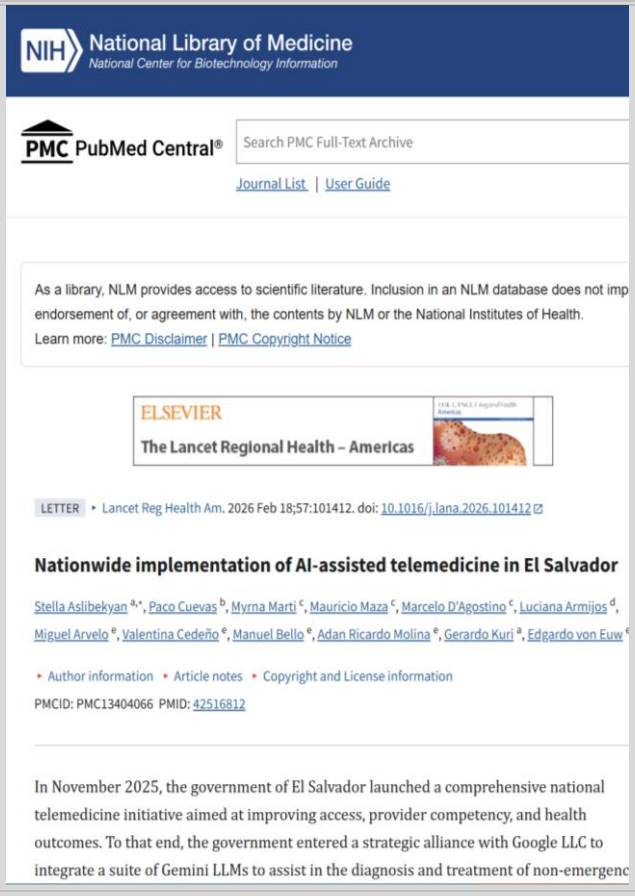
Suggested citation Silva Jr. JB, Garcia-Saisó S, Marti M, Regalia F, Saavedra J, Kallander K, et al. Together towards tomorrow: partnerships powering the digital transformation of the health sector. Rev Panam Salud Publica. 2024;48:e85. https://doi.org/10.26633/RPSP.2024.85

This editorial presents a collective vision of unity, innovation and collaboration, and a shared desire for resilient and more equitable health systems worldwide, urging the global health community to harness the collective strength of alliances and international collaboration to guide the health sector into a new era of digital transformation and innovation. This era has been called by the United Nations Secretary-General as the age of digital interdependence (1), a concept that encapsulates the interconnectedness of our global community and highlights how advancements in one region can promote and support progress across the globe, as demonstrated by digital health interventions and reference standards that have wide applicability and replicability, with contextualization, and where the sharing of implementation experiences can lead to collective improvements in quality, sustainability and scalability. Such an era, in which technology and data are integral to global daily life, requires not only accelerating the adoption of emerging technologies but also a making a cultural shift towards more open, collaborative, digitally transformed and patient-centered health systems (2). Traditional health care delivery models have shown their limitations, particularly in their ability to quickly adapt to surges in demand and provide remote or contactless services through telehealth programs and platforms, delivered through facility-based systems or more frequently, mobile devices, or through the capacity to update algorithms and provide information to the public, responsively changing with emerging evidence or guidelines (3). The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic was a catalyst and accelerator for the use of information and communication technologies to provide and ensure access to health services, highlighting the need for a meaningful digital transformation of this sector, moving away from discordant digital health experiments towards coherent, national or even regional interconnected digital ecosystems. After a global crisis that has left a deep mark on public health, the Region of the Americas finds itself at a critical crossroads. This crisis, which has indiscriminately affected populations on all continents, underscores the urgent need for robust and more resilient health systems that can confront future pandemics and health emergencies. The pandemic revealed how digital tools and platforms could play a critical role in crisis response, from tracking disease outbreaks to facilitating telehealth services, thereby ensuring continuity of care in difficult times. Therefore, the need for a transformative approach to public health is more evident than ever. Digital transformation emerges as an opportunity to strengthen and transform health care models within a new digital reality, empowering users within a renewed primary health care model, with people truly at the center (4,5).

The digital transformation of the health sector refers to how information and communication technologies influence and change the sector's processes, rules of engagement, and ways of working and interacting, and it includes acknowledging the importance of such factors as digital literacy, culture, and the mindset of the health workforce and the community they serve. Digital transformation presents an opportunity to leverage technology's transformative power to address fundamental flaws or limitations stemming from systems developed in an

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The Lancet Regional Health – Americas

LETTER ▸ Lancet Reg Health Am. 2026 Feb 18;57:101412. doi: 10.1016/j.lana.2026.101412

Nationwide implementation of AI-assisted telemedicine in El Salvador

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In November 2025, the government of El Salvador launched a comprehensive national telemedicine initiative aimed at improving access, provider competency, and health outcomes. To that end, the government entered a strategic alliance with Google LLC to integrate a suite of Gemini LLMs to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of non-emergenc

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