AI on Friday

What to Know, Why It Matters

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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 developments, use cases and practical AI-in-health concepts in plain English, helping us apply AI in our technical cooperation and discuss emerging opportunities with Member States and partners.

DEVELOPMENT TO WATCH

AI contributes to a personalized cancer vaccine

What happened: Moderna and Merck announced positive Phase 3 results involving 1,137 people with high-risk melanoma.

AI's contribution: A machine-learning algorithm analyzes each patient's tumor data and helps select up to 34 targets for an individualized mRNA therapy.

Read more: Official announcement • Nature analysis • 2026 peer-reviewed results

The UN advances global AI governance

What happened: In July 2026, UN Secretary-General António Guterres opened the first Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance.

What it includes: The Dialogue complements the Independent International Scientific Panel on AI, creating mechanisms for scientific assessment and international discussion.

Why it matters for health: Global decisions on AI governance, capacity-building and inclusion will influence how countries assess, regulate and adopt AI across their health systems.
Read more: UN Secretary-General's remarks • UN Scientific Panel on AI

AI IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Agentic AI

An AI agent can pursue a goal through several steps. It can plan, use authorized tools, review results and adjust its next action.

Health example: An agent could monitor follow-up actions in a hospital discharge plan, prepare reminders and flag gaps for a health professional.

Essential safeguard: Clinical decisions and consequential actions require defined permissions and human oversight.

PRACTICAL IDEAS

When asking an AI tool to review a report, article or news story, add:

"Separate your response into verified facts, interpretations and information that remains uncertain. Do not present an announcement or preliminary result as established evidence."

You can also add:

"For each major claim, identify the source and publication date and provide a working link. If you cannot verify a claim, say so clearly."

Important reminder: AI-generated content may contain errors, outdated information or incorrect references. Always verify original sources, publication dates and links before using or sharing it, particularly for clinical, policy or technical decisions.

FROM THE AMERICAS

Brazil regulates AI in medical practice

What happened: Brazil's Federal Council of Medicine published Resolution No. 2,454/2026, establishing national rules for AI in medical practice.

What it permits: AI may support clinical decisions, health management, research and medical education. **What it requires:** Physicians retain responsibility for final decisions, and patients must be informed when AI plays a relevant role in their care. **What it prohibits:** Communicating diagnoses or treatment decisions cannot be delegated to AI.

Read more: Official announcement from Brazil's Federal Council of Medicine

WORTH READING 1

The role of agentic artificial intelligence in healthcare: a scoping review

Published in 2026 in *npj Digital Medicine*, this peer-reviewed, open-access review examines agentic AI applications in emergency medicine, oncology, radiology and rehabilitation.

The review found considerable potential, but limited clinical validation. Only seven studies met its criteria, and just one involved patients.

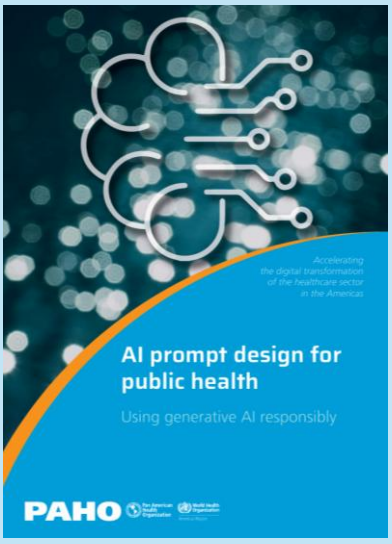
Read the open-access article

WORTH READING 2

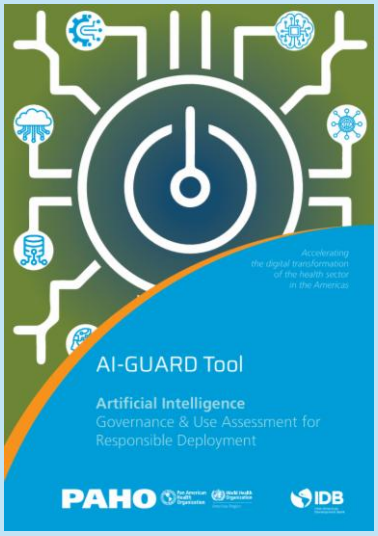
Will Autonomous AI Exceed AI-Aided Physicians as the Best Medical Care?

This Perspective was published online in *JAMA* on August 17, 2026. It challenges the prevailing assumption that the best medical care will necessarily be delivered by physicians supported by AI and asks whether autonomous AI could eventually provide better care than AI-aided physicians. It is a provocative contribution for discussing how the respective roles of health professionals and AI may evolve, and where responsibility and decision-making should remain. JAMA. Read the article using the guest-access link

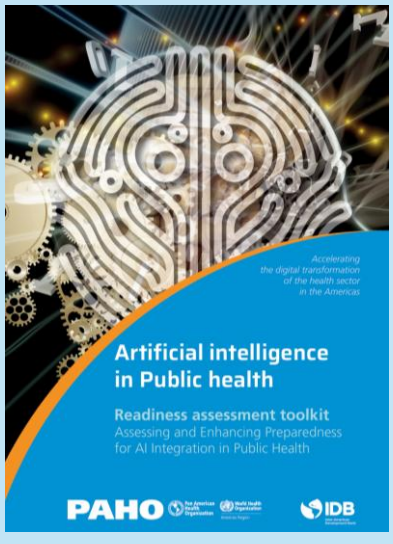
PAHO's resources



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