



On 6 April 2019, the CPME Board adopted the " CPME statement on the ethics guidelines for trustworthy AI prepared by the European Commission's high-level expert group on artificial intelligence " (CPME 2019/020 FINAL).

CPME statement on the ethics guidelines for trustworthy AI prepared by the European Commission's high-level expert group on artificial intelligence

The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) represents national medical associations across Europe. We are committed to contributing the medical profession's point of view to EU and European policy-making through proactive cooperation on a wide range of health and healthcare related issues¹.

AI-based technologies have the potential to become significant tools for preventive and curative healthcare to achieve more efficient treatment and, ultimately, improve the wellbeing of European citizens. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to ensure such tools are evidence-based, trustworthy and patient-centric, while respecting core ethical principles.

Consequently, **CPME welcomes the European Commission's ambition to include the ethical dimension when shaping the future EU framework on AI.**

First of all, CPME agrees that AI-based technology should be transparent, explainable, verifiable, respect fundamental rights and follow ethical rules to build the trust and confidence necessary for physicians as well as patients to accept and use AI solutions. Safe and confident use of AI by physicians is possible only if they possess an adequate knowledge about the technology and its limitations. This includes the possibility for physicians to have access to information on datasets used to develop AI systems.

Furthermore, it is necessary to take all the required precautions to guarantee data security and privacy when applying this new technology. In this respect, CPME reaffirms the fundamental importance of the principle of medical confidentiality - a principle that benefits patients and society. Medical confidentiality and patient privacy not only form the basis of a trusting patient-physician relationship but are also essential for unrestricted access to medical care and good and effective medical practice. They constitute a patient and a human right.

Finally, **while welcoming the European Commission's guidelines, CPME calls on the Commission to appropriately involve the competent department for health, DG SANTE, and relevant stakeholders, incl. healthcare professionals, in any future discussions affecting the healthcare sector.**

¹ CPME is registered in the Transparency Register with the ID number 9276943405-41.
More information about CPME's activities can be found under www.cpme.eu