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Singapore: NTU Study Highlights Need for Better AI Regulatory Training



A study led by researchers at NTU Singapore's Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine has identified limited awareness of artificial intelligence regulations among developers building healthcare technologies. The findings, based on a survey of developers from Singapore, China, Hong Kong and the United Kingdom, point to potential risks in the implementation of medical AI systems where regulatory guidance is not well understood or adopted.

Survey points to low awareness of regulatory frameworks

The survey found that four out of 10 developers questioned were not aware of any regulatory frameworks related to healthcare AI. In addition, almost seven out of 10 organisations employing the developers had not adopted any frameworks designed to guide the safe and trustworthy use of AI technologies.

The researchers said the findings raise concerns about how medical AI tools could be deployed in healthcare settings without sufficient understanding of governance requirements. These frameworks are intended to support reliability, accountability and patient safety in technologies increasingly used in diagnosis, clinical decision-making and healthcare administration.

Implications for healthcare AI deployment

The study comes as Singapore continues to expand the use of AI across healthcare and public services. Recent initiatives include AI-driven healthcare programmes for an

ageing population and wider efforts to strengthen national AI capabilities through updated policy and governance approaches.

Researchers indicated that inconsistent awareness of regulations across jurisdictions may complicate the safe deployment of healthcare AI tools, particularly where technologies are developed in one market and implemented in another. The survey covered respondents from several regulatory environments, highlighting differences in how standards and oversight are understood.

The findings also suggest that organisations developing healthcare AI may require stronger internal governance processes. Without clear regulatory understanding, there is a risk that systems may not fully address issues such as transparency, explainability or patient data protection.

Training and harmonisation identified as priorities

The researchers concluded that training and mentorship programmes could help improve developers' understanding of AI regulations and responsible deployment practices. They also highlighted the potential importance of greater harmonisation between regulatory jurisdictions to support more consistent standards for healthcare AI systems.

Singapore has increasingly focused on governance as part of its broader AI strategy. National initiatives linked to the country's AI strategy and sector-wide transformation plans have emphasised responsible and trusted adoption of AI technologies across industries, including healthcare and education.

The study's findings may also have implications for medical education and workforce development as healthcare institutions adopt more AI-enabled tools. Programmes such as AI-powered digital assessment for clinical training illustrate how AI is becoming embedded within healthcare learning environments alongside clinical operations.

The researchers stated that improving awareness of regulatory frameworks could help support safer, more ethical and effective implementation of AI technologies in healthcare systems.

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