

The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence Applications in Mental Health Care. Toward an Ethical “Artificial Psychiatrist”

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Abstract: Artificial intelligence (AI) could help address some of the challenges of mental healthcare delivery. Although AI applications are already available, used, or being developed, there is a lack of specific codes of practice and indeed of ethical discussion around it. At a more fundamental level, before such codes can be formulated, there is a need for an ethical reflection around AI use in *mental* healthcare. This requires, as a necessary preliminary step, identifying the ethical issues that are specific to AI application in mental healthcare and that can provide the basis for a new, dedicated area of ethical inquiry both at the academic and at the professional level. This article wants to be a first step in this direction. Therefore, rather than providing normative claims, it aims at identifying some of the most important distinctive ethical issues raised by AI in *mental* healthcare.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, Psychiatry, Mental health care, Medical ethics.

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