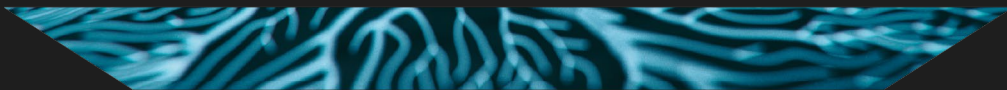
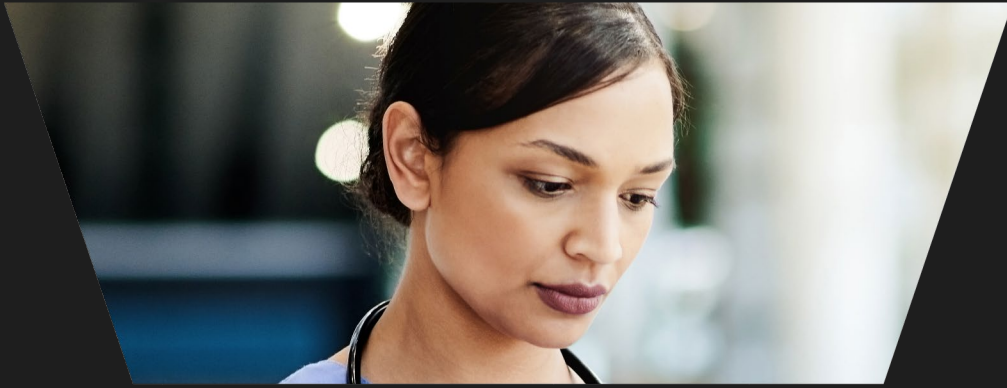




ELSEVIER

Clinician of the Future 2026

Nurses Edition



Advancing human progress together

“[AI] allows me to spend more time looking at and talking with my patients instead of taking notes. It also is very helpful in creating patient education materials or instructions that can be tailored to their specific needs.”

— Nurse, USA

“By reducing the time needed to review multiple sources, I was able to spend more time engaging with patients, addressing misconceptions, and tailoring education to their cultural and health literacy needs.”

— Nurse, Indonesia

Nurses are under pressure

Compared to a year ago, 61% are seeing more patients. While 71% agree that the amount of time they can spend with patients is sufficient to give them good care (higher than doctors at 60%), the main pressures for those who disagree stem from infrastructure constraints and rising patient needs. These include high patient volumes, which reduce the time per patient (71%), excessive administration (64%), a lack of support staff (56%) and increasing complexity of patients’ medical needs (56%).

Many nurses report difficulty keeping up with medical advances and emerging technologies, while one third say they have been too fatigued to treat patients effectively.

43% find keeping up with medical advances (e.g., latest guidelines, research) challenging

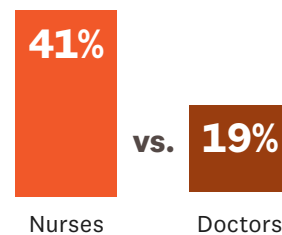
42% find keeping up with the latest technologies/tools challenging

34% have experienced tiredness or exhaustion that has impaired their ability to treat patients effectively

Nurses feel unheard in the workplace

Nurses are feeling excluded: 41% of nurses think that nurses’ views are never or rarely adequately represented in their organizations’ decision-making processes. Only 19% of doctors agree with this.

% Believe nurses’ views are never or rarely adequately represented in organizational decisions



Learning from the nursing community

Nurses are essential to advancing human progress, and their insights and perspectives provide a glimpse into the potential future of healthcare.

In this supplement, we share some key statistics from the views gathered from nurses through Elsevier’s extensive annual global survey, Clinician of the Future 2026.



Online survey

December 2025 — February 2026

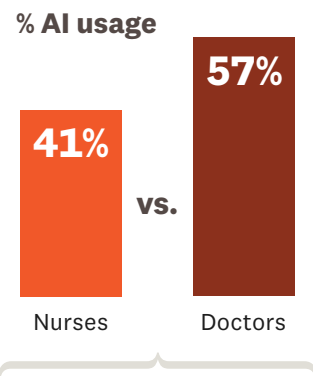
n = 2,757 clinicians
(692 nurses and 2,065 doctors)
from **118 countries**

See the [full report](#) for more details.

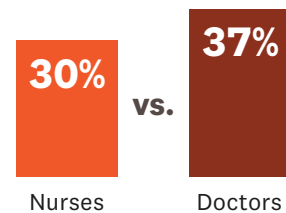
Nurses feel unsupported with AI

Nurses are not getting the most out of AI tools

Overall, AI usage for work is lower among nurses (41%) than doctors (57%). Nurses also use clinical-specific AI tools less often: of clinicians who use AI, 30% of nurses use a clinical-specific tool frequently or always, compared to 37% of doctors.



Of these, the % who frequently or always use a clinical-specific AI tool



Why?



A lack of support

According to our survey, nurses feel unsupported in their use of AI: only half of nurses think their institutions are good at providing access to AI tools (51%), governance (51%) and training (46%).



More face time with patients

According to research published in the *American Journal of Medicine*, nurses spend much more time than doctors do with their patients, giving them less time to use AI.

During a day shift in the intensive care unit, patients experienced most of their care time with nurses (86%) and much less with doctors (13%).¹ On average, a patient has about eight hours of daily contact with a nurse.²



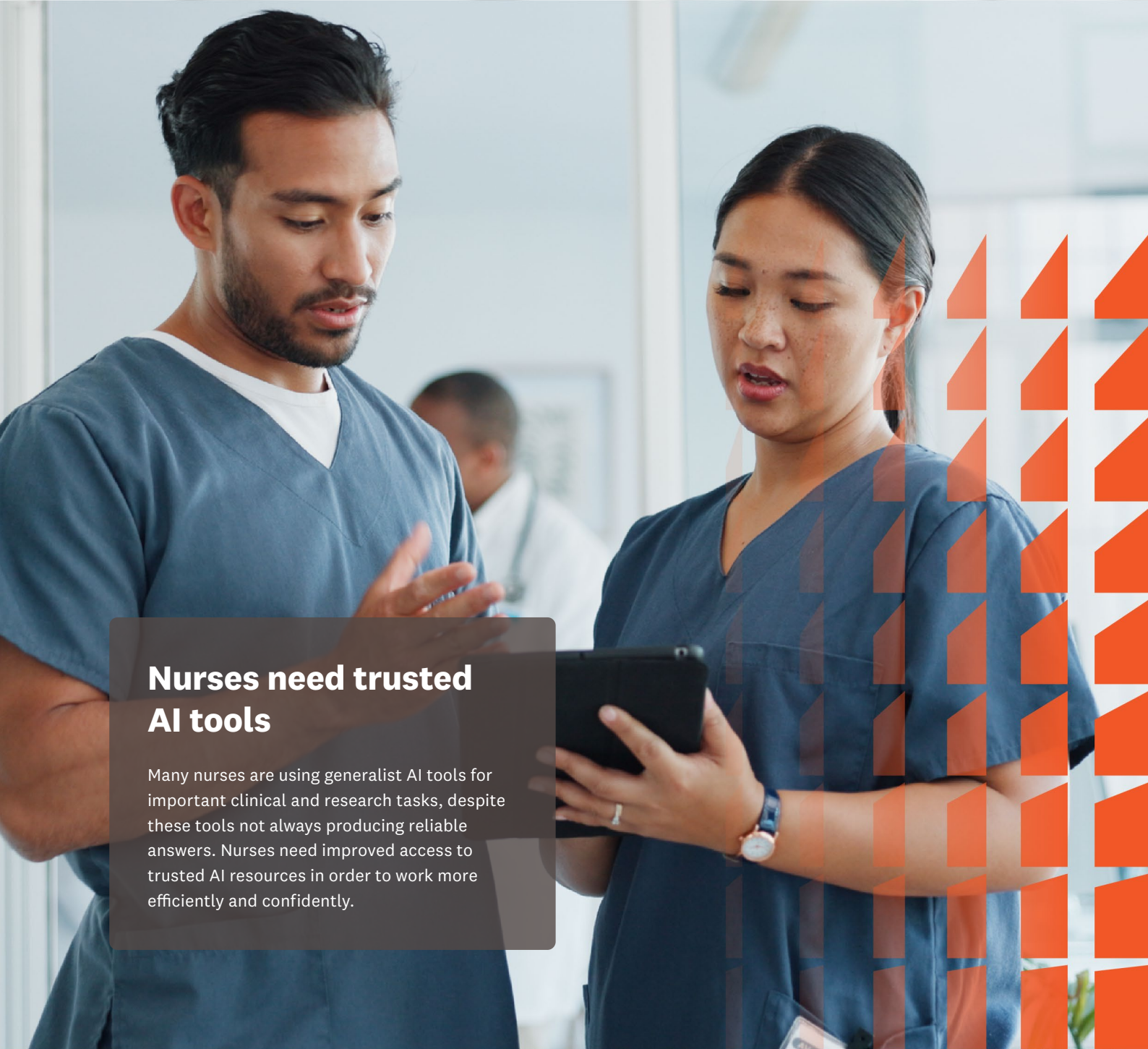
Lack of clinical-specific tools for nurses

An overview in *BMC Nursing* states that research on clinical decision support systems tailored to the nursing process lags behind studies focused on systems for physicians, particularly in supporting diagnosis and recommendations. It also notes that development of these systems for nurses remains in its infancy.³

¹Butler R, Monsalve M, Thomas GW, Herman T, Segre AM, Polgreen PM, Suneja M. Estimating Time Physicians and Other Health Care Workers Spend with Patients in an Intensive Care Unit Using a Sensor Network. Accessed May 6, 2026. [https://www.amjmed.com/article/S0002-9343\(18\)30296-1/abstract](https://www.amjmed.com/article/S0002-9343(18)30296-1/abstract)

²Tafti EA, Cannaby AM, Carter V, Strobel S. The relationship between nurse contact time and patient outcomes: a retrospective observational study using Real-Time Location data. Accessed May 6, 2026. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s12913-025-12822-6>

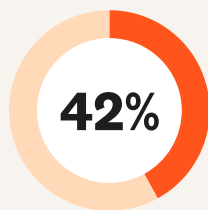
³Khalil CA, Saab A, Rahme J, Bouaud J, Seroussi B. Capabilities of computerized decision support systems supporting the nursing process in hospital settings: a scoping review. Accessed May 6, 2026. <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s12912-025-03272-w>



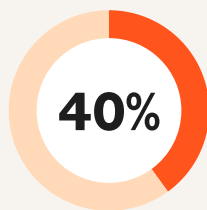
Nurses need trusted AI tools

Many nurses are using generalist AI tools for important clinical and research tasks, despite these tools not always producing reliable answers. Nurses need improved access to trusted AI resources in order to work more efficiently and confidently.

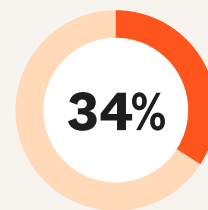
Tasks for which AI-using nurses are using generalist AI tools:



Professional education and upskilling



Patient education



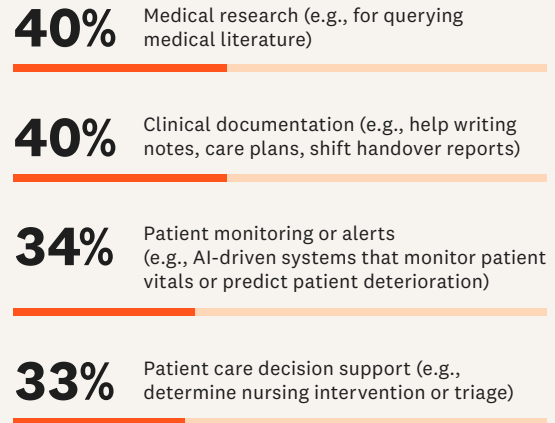
Medical research (querying medical literature)

Nurses see the value of AI in healthcare settings

Nurses are using AI to support clinical work

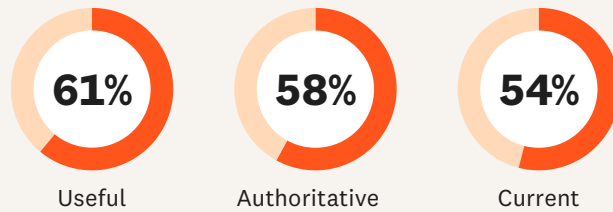
Nurses who use clinical-specific tools do so to support their clinical practice as well as administrative tasks.

Tasks for which AI-using nurses are employing clinical-specific AI tools:

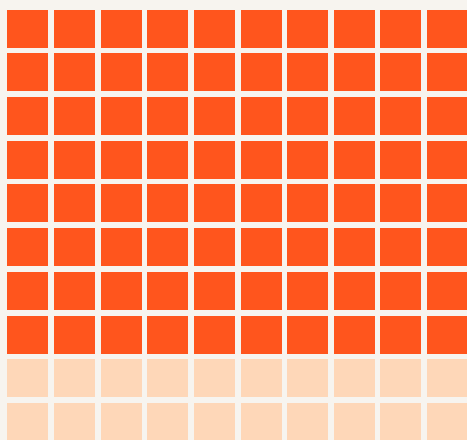


Nurses who use clinical-specific AI tools rate them as 'good' across several factors.

Overall, nurses viewed clinical-specific AI tools more favourably than generalist AI tools. Clinical-specific tools received higher "good" ratings across several attributes, particularly authoritativeness (derived from reputable sources), with 58% rating them good versus 44% for generalist tools.



Nurses are optimistic about the future of AI in healthcare



80% say AI will not replace clinicians but will become a critical assistant in the next 5-10 years

Already, more than half of nurses perceive that AI tools give them more choice (53%) and that AI tools empower them (51%).

In the next 5-10 years:

78% expect that being skilled in using AI tools will be an essential part of a clinician's training and competencies

61% expect that clinicians using AI will deliver better care than those who do not

60% expect that healthcare will be dramatically transformed by AI

Nurses are generally optimistic about the technology in these areas:

59% believe clinical AI tools will help improve patient outcomes in the next 2-3 years

53% believe clinical AI tools will increase the quality of patient consultations in the next 2-3 years

53% currently perceive AI tools as improving patient care

46% currently perceive AI tools as increasing their autonomy

There is still some skepticism

Only **42%** believe AI tools are trustworthy

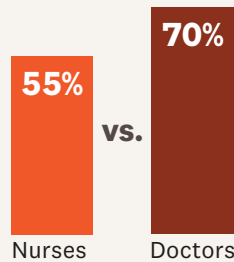
It is clear that there is more to be done to build nurses' trust in AI tools.



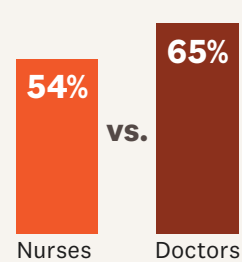
Some of the benefits of AI are not as apparent to nurses as they are to doctors:

Looking into the near future, 55% of nurses say AI will save them time in 2-3 years, compared to 70% of doctors. And 54% of nurses think AI will be routinely used to analyze medical images as a standard part of diagnostics, compared to 65% of doctors.

% Believe AI will save time



% Believe AI will routinely analyze medical images



The future — increasing nurses' trust in AI solutions

Nurses need transparent tools that are easy to use

What would improve nurses' trust in AI solutions?

Top 5 answers:



Easy to use (clear, well-structured outputs)



Comprehensive (multiple sources)



Transparent (with citations)



Safe (not to cause harm)



Quality sources (peer-reviewed content)



Advancing human progress *together*

The aim of this study was to understand clinicians' — including nurses' — views on healthcare today, the role of AI in clinical settings and its potential in the future. With these insights, we are better prepared to utilize AI to help advance knowledge and healthcare.

As a global leader in advanced information and decision support, Elsevier helps to drive science and healthcare forward, to advance human progress. For more than a decade, Elsevier has been using AI and machine learning technologies responsibly in our products.

Elsevier provides evidence-based solutions that address the needs of current and future nurses to help them excel, develop their skills and improve patient outcomes.

For more information, visit elsevier.io/cotf2026

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