

AMA Digital Health Vision Statement – Preamble 2021

This document outlines the AMA position on Digital Health

1. Preamble

- 1.1 Our AMA recognises digital health as an emerging clinical specialty. In future years digital health knowledge will be a core component of medical training and a recognised clinical specialty.
- 1.2 Technology can enable healthcare that is safe, high quality and patient centred. Technology can improve and advance our healthcare system, and the health of all Australians.
- 1.3 An overarching vision for digital health is needed so we can work towards a connected, consumer-centred healthcare system.
- 1.4 A healthcare system:
 - (a) with seamless communication between different healthcare providers and different healthcare settings
 - (b) with quality care co-ordination
 - (c) with enhanced management of complex and chronic disease
 - (d) where prevention is at the foundation of healthcare planning and design
 - (e) with patient centred data governance
 - (f) with an emphasis on key environmental, social and moral determinants of health
 - (g) where digital health and assistive technologies enable individuals to receive quality care at home and enable care to be delivered in circumstances that are not currently possible
 - (h) where data governance is patient centred, and data use supports quality improvement and research
- 1.5 Ethical and governance frameworks are required for data use, as while artificial intelligence and personal analytics have incredible potential, as medical practitioners we must first do no harm.
- 1.6 Equity in healthcare requires that no patient or medical practitioner is left behind as our healthcare system undergoes technological change.
- 1.7 New healthcare technologies must be designed in close consultation with medical practitioners and patients. Co-design, usability, standardisation, accessibility, human factors and intuitive design must be at the core of all interfaces. Technology implementation must also be performed in close consultation with medical practitioners and patients, with ongoing quality improvement and system review. Healthcare leadership must include medical practitioners who have expertise in digital health, as change management within Australian healthcare requires a deep understanding of existing practice and workforce limitations.
- 1.8 Technological change may create unforeseen consequences not just for safety, quality and privacy, but for the healthcare workforce and the medical profession. There is rapid change in educational requirements, training delivery, examination practices, workforce management, research and the practice of medicine. By working together, we will build a technologically advanced healthcare system that has at its heart the collective aim for Australia to become the healthiest country in the world.

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