

HB4804 – REGISTERED NURSE USE OF AI
SPONSOR – Rep Bob Morgan

Artificial intelligence offers value in documentation and decision support. Patient care still requires professional nursing judgment. This legislation sets clear guardrails, so technology supports nurses rather than replaces them. It protects patient safety, preserves transparency, and strengthens accountability in Illinois health care.

Artificial Intelligence Protections in Nursing Practice

1. Protect patient safety

Nursing assessment, judgment, and care planning require professional clinical expertise. This bill states that artificial intelligence systems cannot replace registered nurses in direct patient care.

2. Maintain nurse accountability in clinical decisions

Artificial intelligence tools serve only as clinical decision support. A registered nurse reviews every recommendation and determines whether it applies to the patient. The nurse remains responsible for the final decision.

3. Prevent automated health decisions without human oversight

Hospitals and health systems face clear limits. Artificial intelligence systems cannot independently perform triage, admission, discharge, or transfer decisions. A registered nurse must review and approve those decisions.

4. Require patient transparency

Patients receive written notice when artificial intelligence supports clinical care. The notice explains that the system assists the nurse and does not replace a nurse.

5. Require informed consent for recorded encounters

If artificial intelligence records or analyzes a patient interaction, the nurse must obtain patient consent. The patient retains the right to withdraw consent at any time.

6. Protect patient privacy and confidentiality

The bill preserves all federal and state privacy protections, including HIPAA. Vendors and technology partners must follow those privacy standards when handling patient data.

7. Address bias and safety risks in AI systems

Health care employers must maintain validation records and monitor systems for bias. Regulators receive the authority to review these records when needed.

8. Require training for nurses using AI tools

Health care organizations must provide training on system limits, data sources, and potential failure points. Nurses must understand how the technology produces recommendations.

9. Protect nurses who prioritize patient safety

A nurse holds the right to refuse the use of artificial intelligence when patient safety concerns arise. Employers cannot retaliate against nurses who act in good faith to protect patients.

10. Establish enforcement and accountability

The Department of Financial and Professional Regulation receives authority to investigate violations and impose penalties on entities that misuse artificial intelligence in nursing care.