# AI makes ‘prompt literacy’ nursing’s new superpower in NHS transformation



Artificial intelligence is reshaping nursing practice across the NHS, elevating “prompt literacy”—the ability to ask precise, nuanced questions of AI systems—into a core clinical skill. Algorithms already help predict frequent A&E attendances and support radiologists in detecting early-stage cancers, while automation is cutting bureaucracy and freeing nurses to spend more time with patients.

The next wave of AI promises real-time decision support, analysing complex patient data and suggesting personalised treatments. In this environment, the key competency for nurses is shifting from rote protocol to crafting detailed prompts that draw tailored, actionable insights from AI.

Melanconia Duval-Pazzaglia, senior lecturer practitioner in critical care, explained that prompt literacy requires placing patient data in full context—medical history, comorbidities, medications and social factors—so AI can provide meaningful recommendations. She illustrated how a comprehensive prompt transforms AI from a generic responder into a nuanced clinical support tool, better aligning outputs with professional judgment.

Nurses are already applying this approach in diagnostics, medication management, patient education and training. Teams that test AI outputs against clinical assessments and share prompting strategies are building a culture of collaborative learning. Far from diminishing nursing’s human elements, AI is expected to amplify them, with early studies linking reduced administrative burdens to higher job satisfaction.

The NHS is investing heavily in safe AI adoption through initiatives such as the NHS AI Lab and the AI in Health and Care Award, supporting projects that improve patient care and efficiency. Services like NHS 111 also demonstrate how digital innovations can streamline access to appropriate care and reduce unnecessary hospital visits.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council’s 2024 Digital Capabilities Framework underscores the importance of digital fluency, with prompt literacy seen as essential to maintaining professional autonomy in an AI-enabled workplace.

Challenges remain, from ethical risks and potential over-reliance on technology to ensuring equitable access. But the trajectory is clear: nurses who master prompt literacy will be central to shaping AI integration responsibly, ensuring patient-centred care remains at the heart of the NHS.

As AI embeds itself deeper into healthcare, excellence in nursing will be defined not by having all the answers but by asking the right questions—of patients, colleagues, and increasingly, AI. This positions the UK to lead globally in developing a nursing workforce that combines compassion with cutting-edge digital expertise.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.nursingtimes.net/digital-and-technology/in-an-ai-driven-world-prompt-literacy-is-nursings-new-superpower-18-09-2025/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/urgent-and-emergency-care-services/nhs-111/> - NHS 111 is a free, 24-hour service in England that offers medical advice and information. It is staffed by trained professionals who can provide guidance on urgent medical issues, direct patients to the appropriate care, and offer information on local health services. The service aims to ensure that individuals receive timely and appropriate care, reducing unnecessary visits to emergency departments and GP surgeries.
3. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ai-lab/> - The NHS AI Lab is an initiative by NHSX to accelerate the safe and ethical adoption of artificial intelligence in the NHS. It focuses on developing AI solutions that improve patient care, enhance operational efficiency, and support healthcare professionals. The lab collaborates with various stakeholders to ensure that AI technologies are implemented responsibly and effectively within the NHS.
4. <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/ai-healthcare> - The King's Fund is a UK-based charity that provides research and analysis on health and social care. Their publication on AI in healthcare explores the potential applications of artificial intelligence in the NHS, including improving diagnostics, personalising treatment, and enhancing operational efficiency. It also discusses the challenges and ethical considerations associated with implementing AI technologies in healthcare settings.
5. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/diabetes/> - Diabetes is a long-term condition that causes high blood sugar levels. The NHS provides comprehensive information on the types of diabetes, symptoms, causes, and treatments. It offers guidance on managing the condition, including lifestyle changes, medication, and monitoring blood sugar levels. The NHS also provides resources for support and advice for those living with diabetes.
6. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ai-lab/ai-healthcare-award/> - The AI in Health and Care Award is an initiative by the NHS AI Lab to support the development and evaluation of AI technologies in healthcare. The award aims to accelerate the testing and adoption of AI solutions that can improve patient care and operational efficiency. It provides funding and support to innovators and organisations working on AI projects within the NHS.
7. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ai-lab/ai-healthcare-award/> - The AI in Health and Care Award is an initiative by the NHS AI Lab to support the development and evaluation of AI technologies in healthcare. The award aims to accelerate the testing and adoption of AI solutions that can improve patient care and operational efficiency. It provides funding and support to innovators and organisations working on AI projects within the NHS.