



**PennState**  
Dickinson Law

# Ethical & Legal Considerations for Biomedical AI

**BMI 702 – May 8**

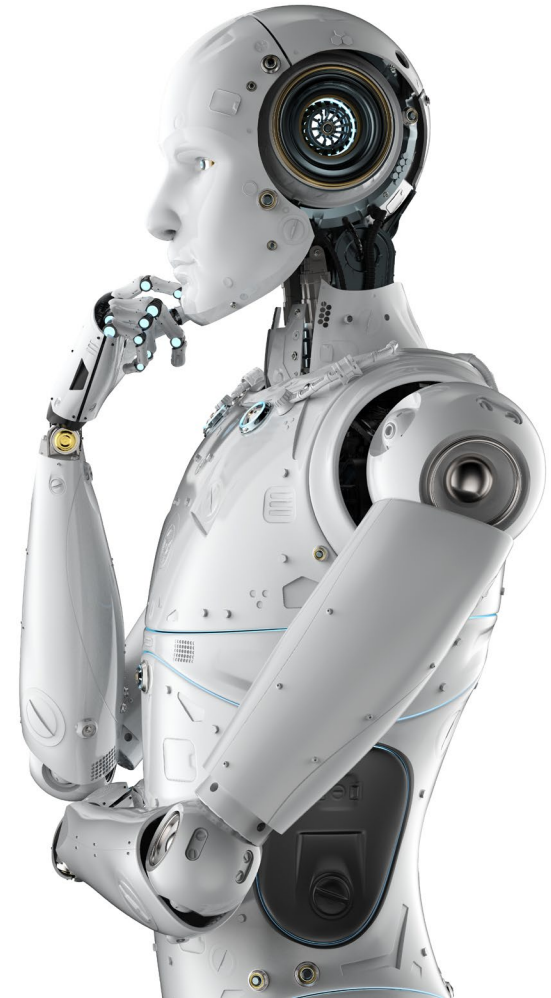
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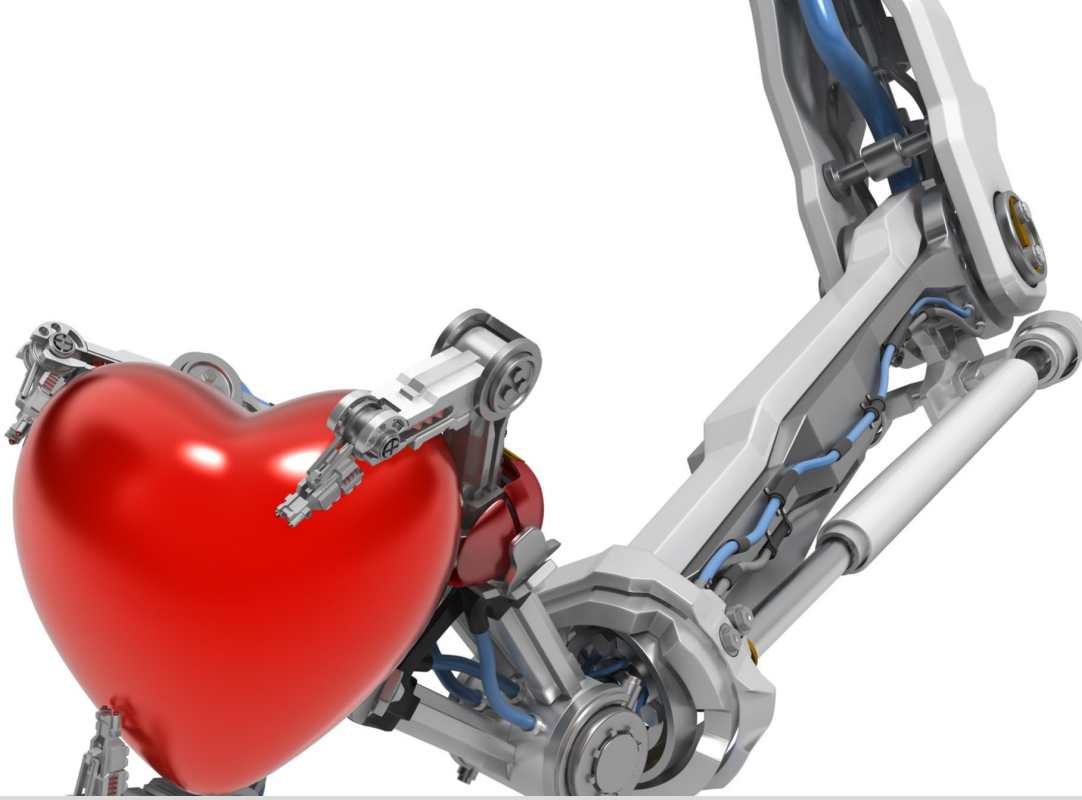
# Outline

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- Ethical Frameworks
- Data Privacy
- Regulation of AI/ML
- Liability



# Ethical Frameworks



# 1.

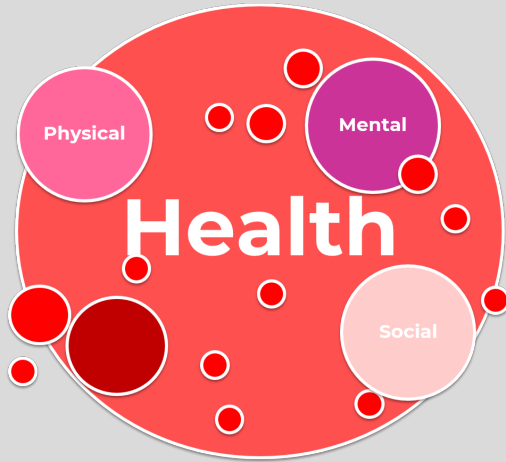
## What Is Health AI Ethics?

# Health AI Ethics

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**Application and analysis of ethics to contexts in health in which AI is involved**



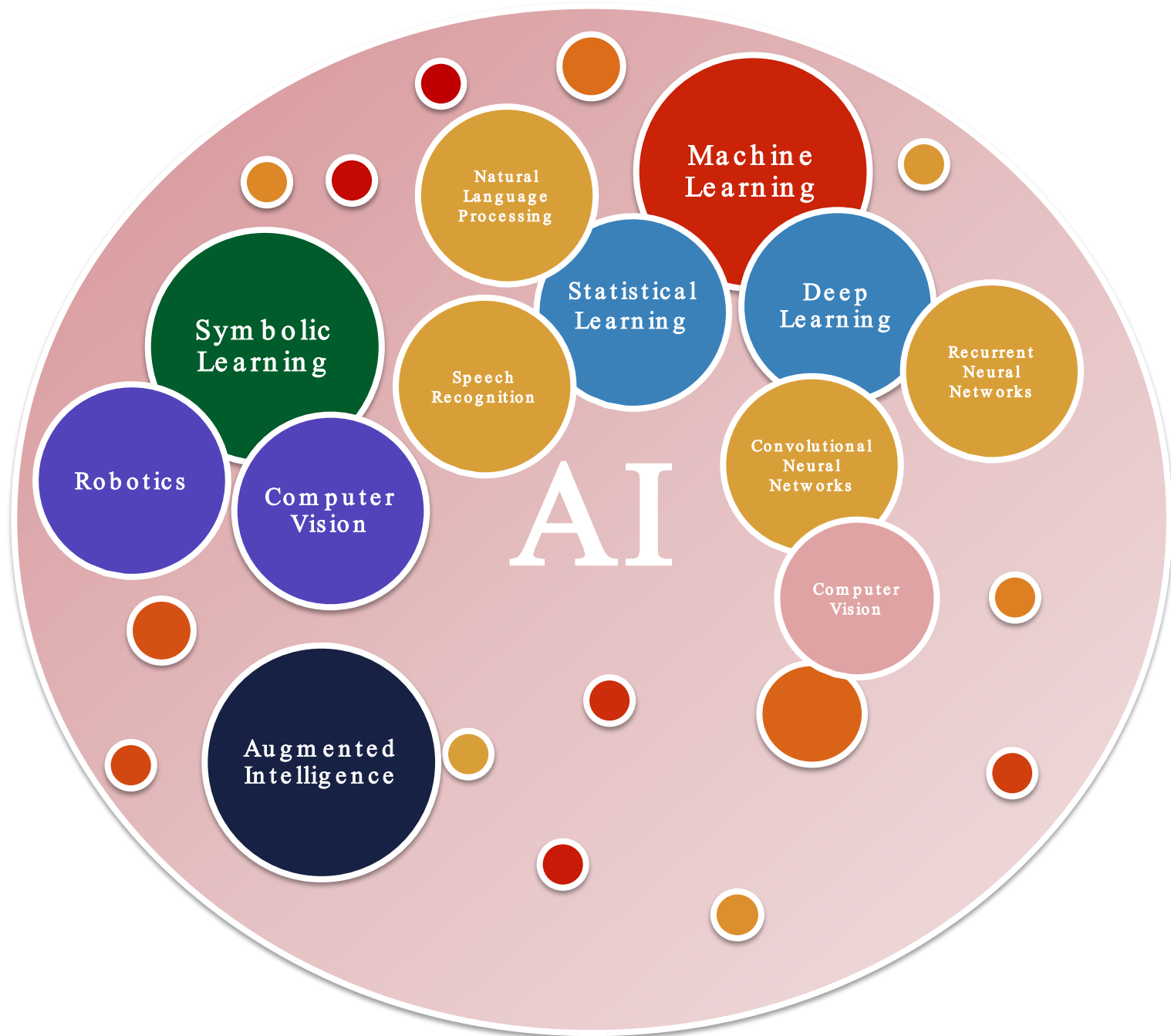


*A state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.*

World Health Organization. Constitution.

<https://www.who.int/about/governance/constitution>.





# Ethics

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Normative Ethics

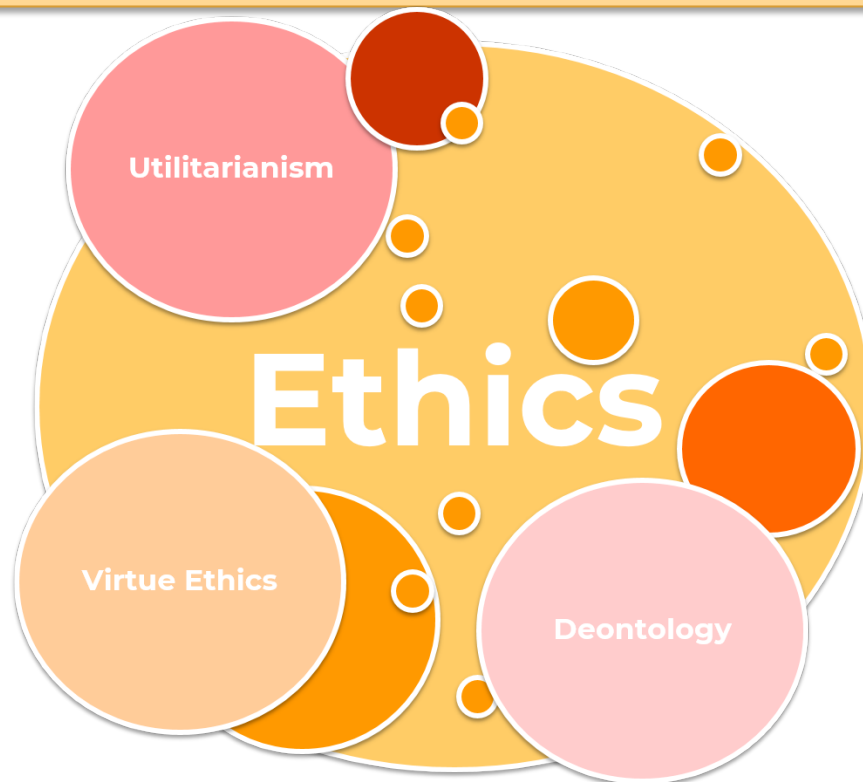
Metaethics

Applied Ethics



# Normative Ethics

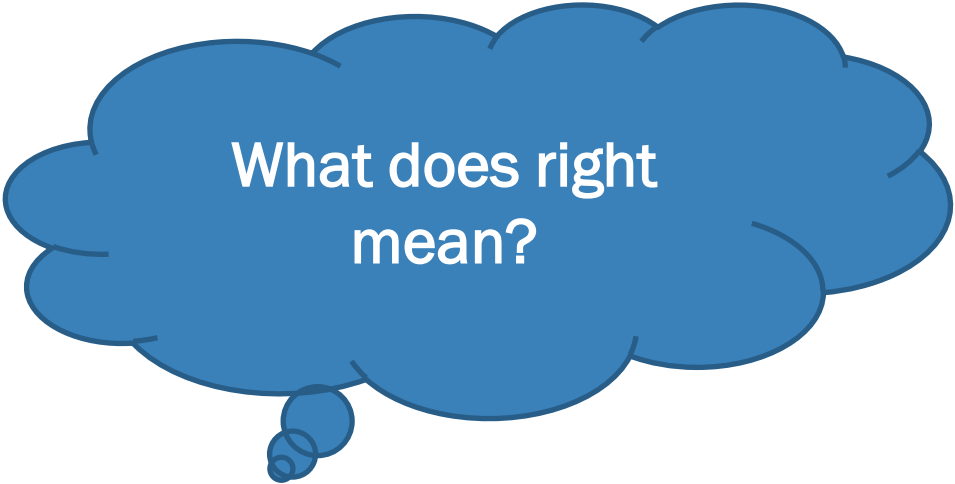
- Tries to answer questions about the right way to act.



# Metaethics

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- Addresses questions about the nature of right and wrong



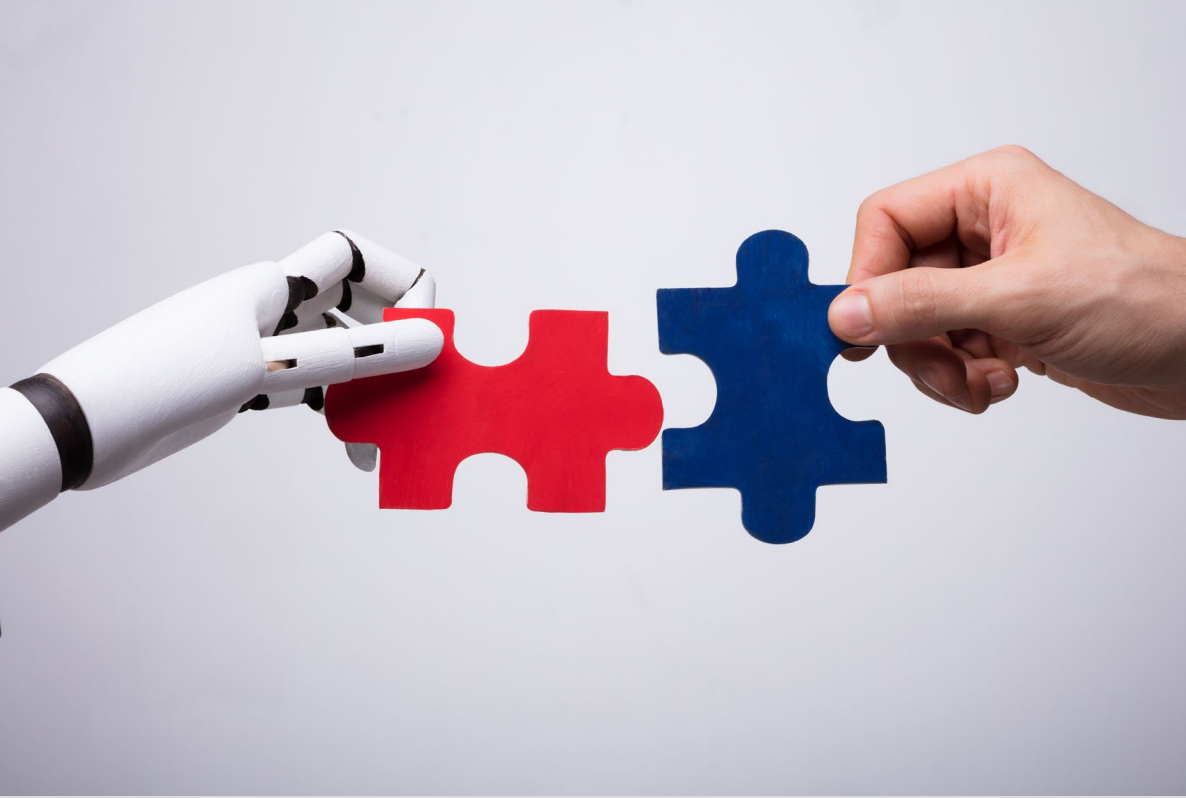
What does right mean?

# Applied Ethics

- Deals with applying ethical theories or principles to specific, real-life issues

Principles of Biomedical Ethics by  
James F. Childress and Tom L.  
Beauchamp



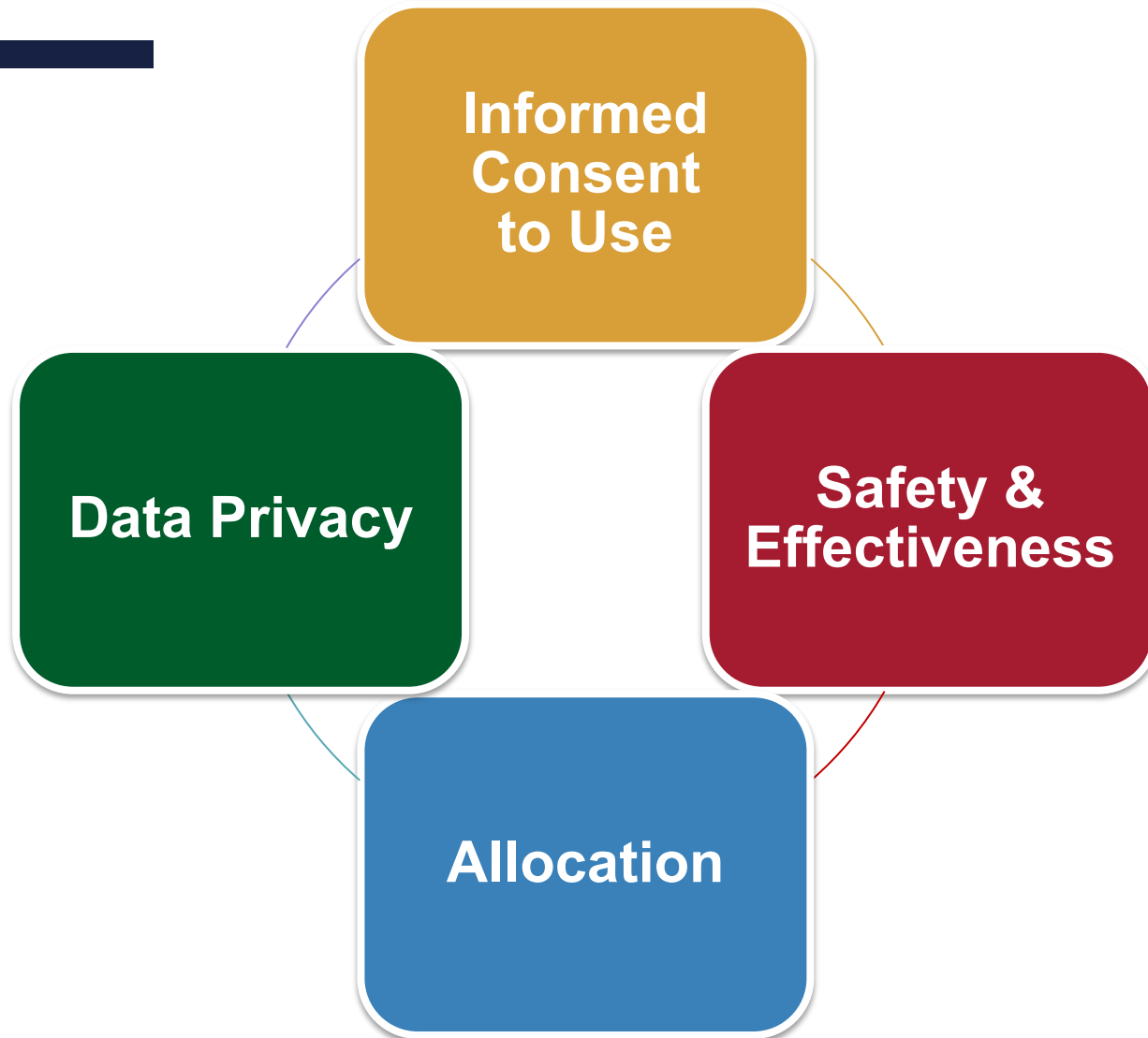


## 2.

# Ethical Issues

# Ethical Issues

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## Informed Consent to Use



Need to examine under what circumstances (if at all) the **principles of informed consent** should be deployed in the clinical AI space.



Especially challenging to answer in cases where the AI operates using “**black-box**” algorithms.



Health AI apps & chatbots raise questions about **user agreements** & their relationship to informed consent.

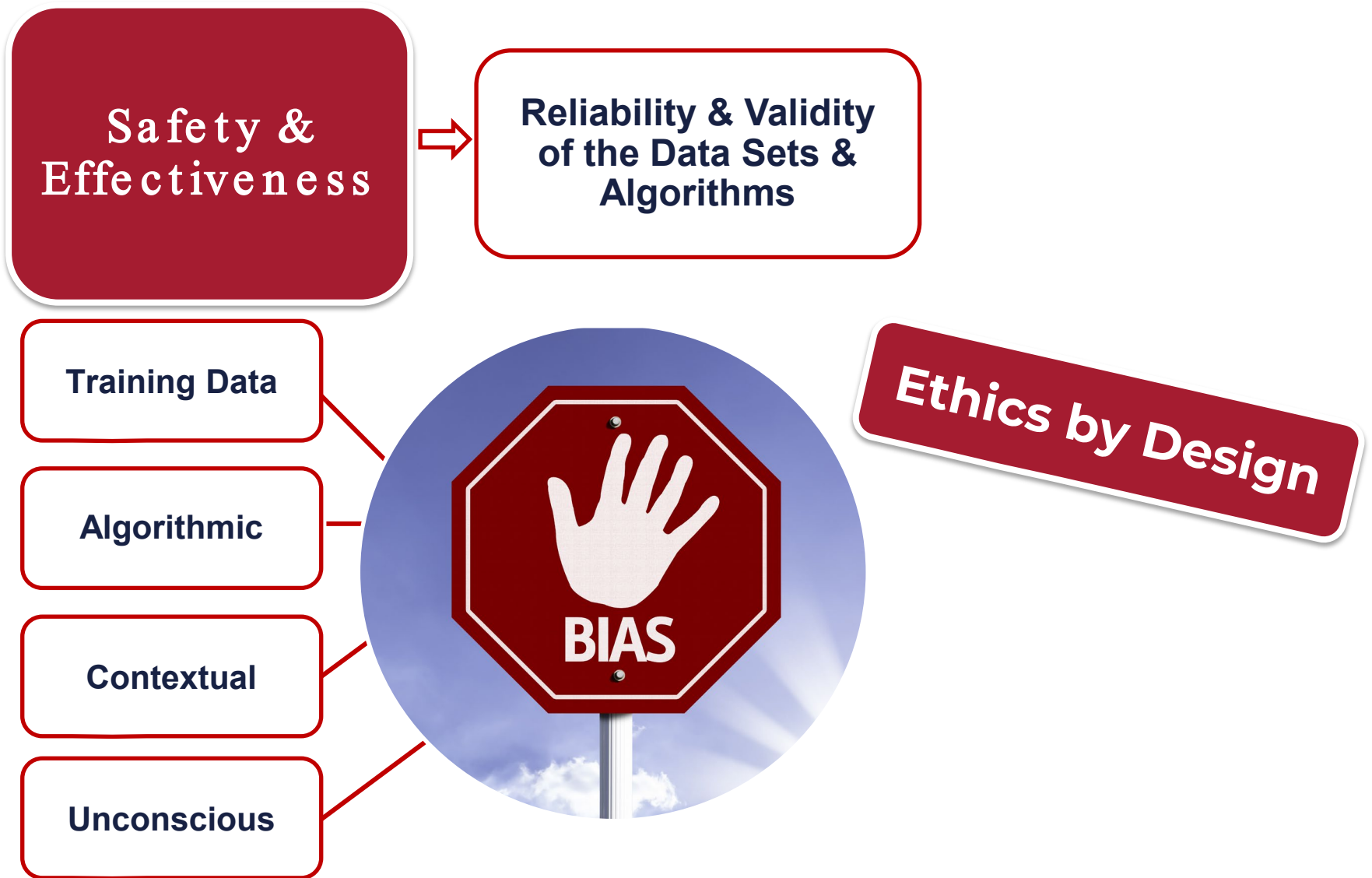


**Safety &  
Effectiveness**

**Reliability &  
Validity of the  
Data Sets &  
Algorithms**

**Some Amount of  
Transparency**





Sara Gerke, Timo Minssen & I. Glenn Cohen, *Ethical and Legal Challenges of Artificial Intelligence-Driven Healthcare*, in *Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare* 295 (Adam Bohr & Kaveh Memarzadeh eds., Elsevier 2020).

Timo Minssen, Sara Gerke, Mateo Aboy, Nicholson Price & I. Glenn Cohen, *Regulatory Responses to Medical Machine Learning*, J. L. BIOSCI. Isaa002 (2020).

Gali Katznelson & Sara Gerke, *The Need for Health AI Ethics in Medical School Education*, *Advances in Health Sciences Education* 26, 1447–1458 (2021).

Sara Gerke, Timo Minssen, Helen Yu & I. Glenn Cohen, *Ethical and Legal Issues of Ingestible Electronic Sensors*, 2 NATURE ELECTRON. 329 (2019).



# Allocation



SCIENCE

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AN ALGORITHM CUTS YOUR HEALTH CARE

By Colin Lecher | @colinlecher | Mar 21, 2018, 9:00am EDT

Illustrations by William Joel; Photography by Amelia Holowaty Krales



SHARE



or most of her life, Tammy Dobbs, who has cerebral palsy, relied on her family in Missouri for care. But in 2008, she moved to Arkansas,

Photo Credit: <https://www.theverge.com/2018/3/21/17144260/healthcare-medicare-algorithm-arkansas-cerebral-palsy>

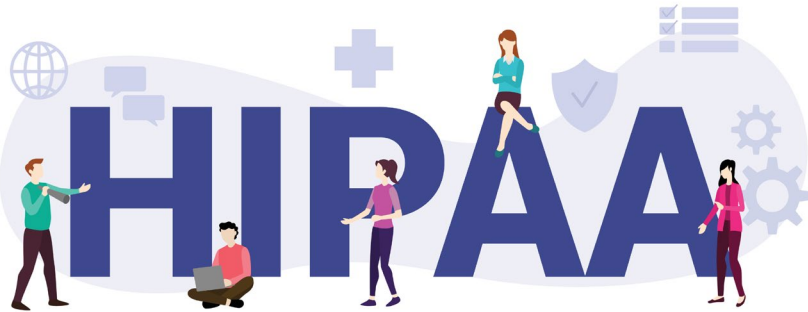
## Case Problem

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# The Patient With Diabetes



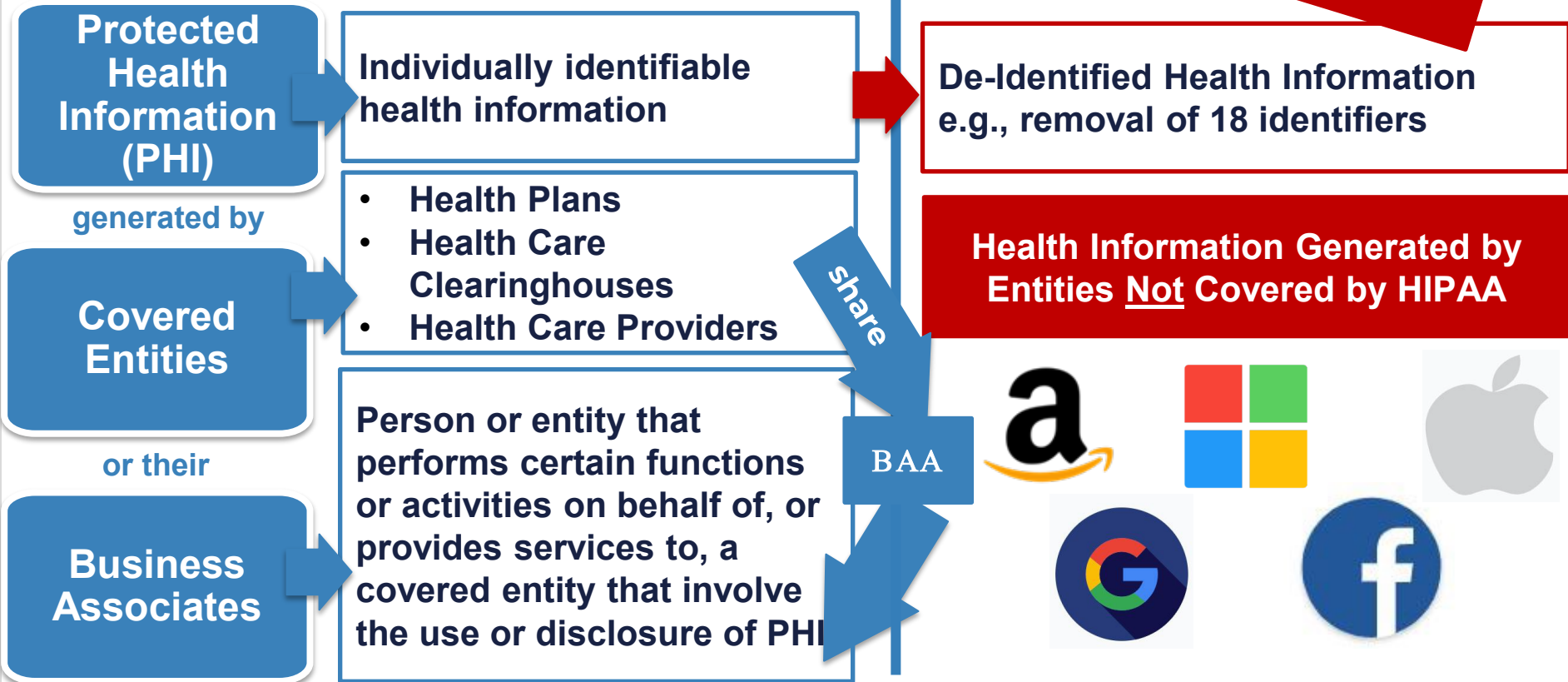
# Data Privacy



Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act



**Data Triangulation**



# Data Privacy



New Legal  
Developments  
to Protect  
Privacy



- Has been applied since **25 May 2018** in all **EU Member States**
- **Protects fundamental rights and freedoms of natural persons** and in particular their **right to the protection of personal data** (Art. 1(2))
- **Broad material & territorial scope** (Arts. 2, 3)
  - **Impact on U.S. entities** (e.g., processing activities are related to the offering of goods or services to data subjects in the EU)



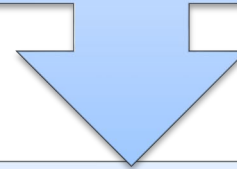
Data Privacy



New Legal  
Developments  
to Protect  
Privacy in the  
U.S.



Became effective on **January 1, 2020**



**Grants various rights to California residents with regard to personal information that is held by businesses**

## Case Problem

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# The Patient With Diabetes – Part 2

# Regulation of AI/ML

## Regulation of AI/ML

# Medical Device Definition, FDCA Section 201(h)(1)

(...) an instrument, apparatus, implement, machine, contrivance, implant, in vitro reagent, or other similar or related article, including any component, part, or accessory, which is—

(A) recognized in the official National Formulary, or the United States Pharmacopeia, or any supplement to them,

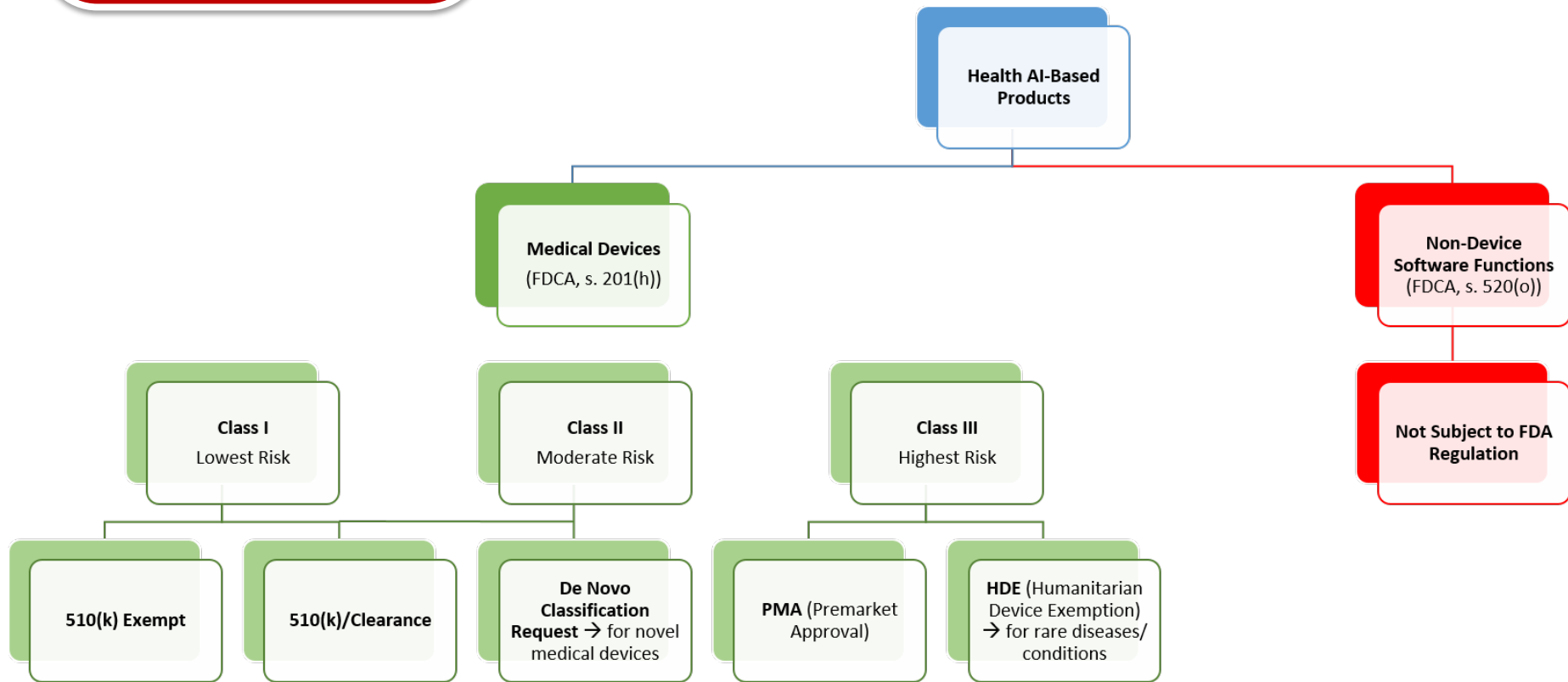
**(B) intended for use in the diagnosis of disease or other conditions, or in the cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease, in man or other animals,**  
or

(C) intended to affect the structure or any function of the body of man or other animals, and

**which does not achieve its primary intended purposes through chemical action within or on the body of man or other animals and which is not dependent upon being metabolized for the achievement of its primary intended purposes.** The term “device” does not include software functions excluded pursuant to section 520(o).

# Regulation of AI/ML

## Regulatory Pathways



Adapted from Sara Gerke et al., *Regulatory, Safety, and Privacy Concerns of Home Monitoring Technologies During COVID-19*, 26 NATURE MED. 1176 (2020).

## Regulation of AI/ML

# Non-Device Software Functions, FDCA Section 520(o)

1. For administrative support of a health care facility

2. For maintaining or encouraging a healthy lifestyle

3. To serve as electronic patient records

4. For transferring, storing, converting formats, or displaying  
clinical laboratory test or other device data and results

5. To support certain clinical decisions

# Regulation of AI/ML



Update  
Problem

## AI/ML-Based SaMD

(Artificial Intelligence/Machine  
Learning-Based Software as a  
Medical Device)



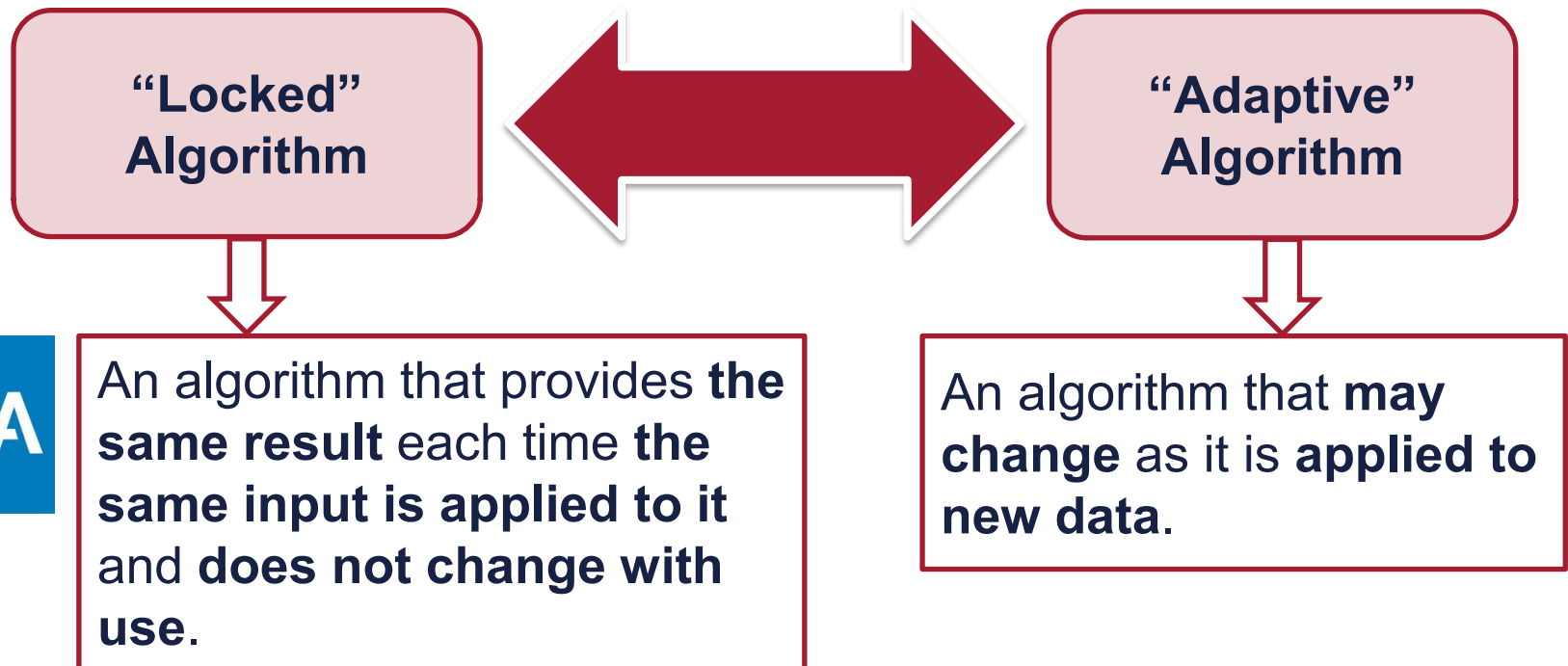
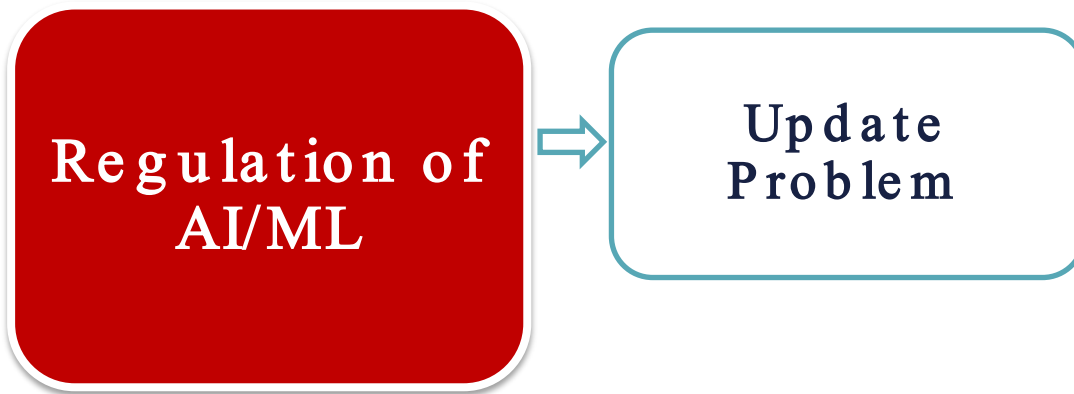
Software intended to be used for **one or more medical purposes** that perform these purposes **without being part of a hardware medical device.**



Those purposes that are **intended to treat, diagnose, cure, mitigate, or prevent disease or other conditions.**







# Regulation of AI/ML



Update Problem



FDA U.S. FOOD & DRUG  
ADMINISTRATION

Proposed Regulatory Framework for Modifications to Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML)-Based Software as a Medical Device (SaMD)

*Discussion Paper and Request for Feedback*

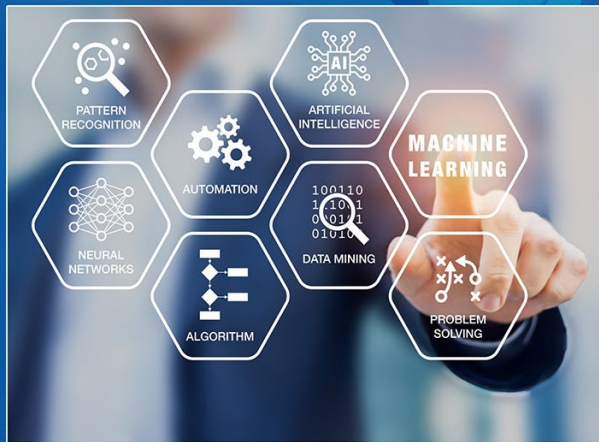


Photo Credit: <https://www.fda.gov/media/122535/download>

Total Product Lifecycle (TPLC) Regulatory Approach



Predetermined Change Control Plan



Continuous Risk Monitoring



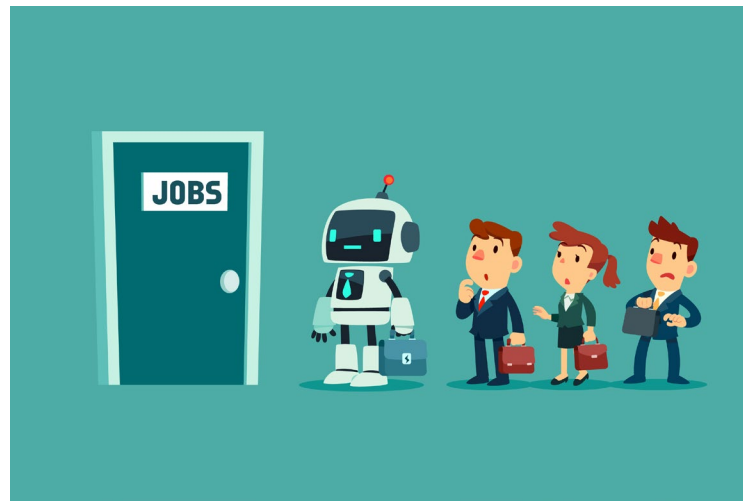
Focus on new risks due to AI/ML characteristics.

Regulation of  
AI/ML



System View

- Regulators like the FDA need to **widen their scope** from evaluating medical AI/ML-based products to **assessing systems**.



# Regulation of AI/ML

## The FDA's New Action Plan



Further developing the **proposed regulatory framework**, including issuing draft guidance on a predetermined change control plan

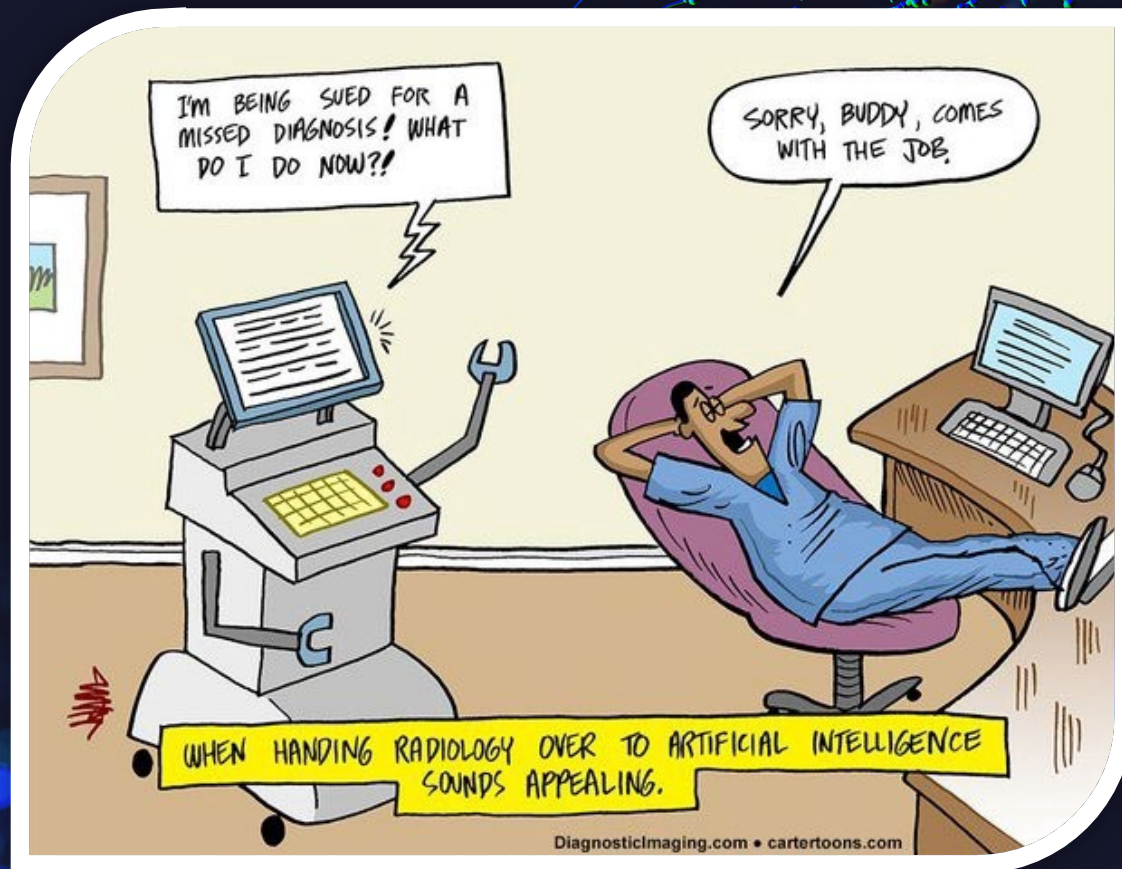
Supporting the development of **good machine learning practices** to evaluate and improve machine learning algorithms

Fostering a **patient-centered approach**, including device transparency to users

Developing methods to **evaluate and improve machine learning algorithms**; and

Advancing **real-world performance monitoring** pilots.

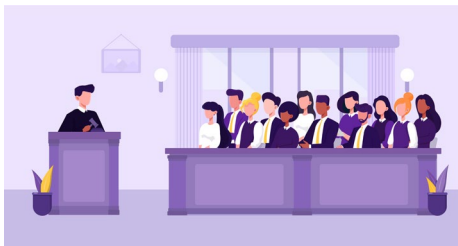
# Liability



# Examples of Potential Legal Outcomes Related to AI Use in Clinical Practice

Scenario	AI recommendation	AI accuracy	Physician action	Patient outcome	Legal outcome (probable)
1	Standard of care	Correct	Follows	Good	No injury and no liability
2			Rejects	Bad	Injury and liability
3		Incorrect (standard of care is incorrect)	Follows	Bad	Injury but no liability
4			Rejects	Good	No injury and no liability
5	Nonstandard care	Correct (standard of care is incorrect)	Follows	Good	No injury and no liability
6			Rejects	Bad	Injury but no liability
7		Incorrect	Follows	Bad	Injury and liability
8			Rejects	Good	No injury and no liability

W. Nicholson Price II, Sara Gerke & I. Glenn Cohen, *Potential Liability for Physicians Using Artificial Intelligence* 322 JAMA 1765 (2019).



W. Nicholson Price II, Sara Gerke & I. Glenn Cohen, *How Much Can Potential Jurors Tell Us about Liability for Medical Artificial Intelligence?*, 62 THE JOURNAL OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE 15 (2021).



# Ecosystem of Liability

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- Physicians
- Hospital Systems
- AI Makers
- Payers

W. Nicholson Price II, Sara Gerke & I. Glenn Cohen, *Potential Liability for Physicians Using Artificial Intelligence* 322 JAMA 1765 (2019).





# Thanks!

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