



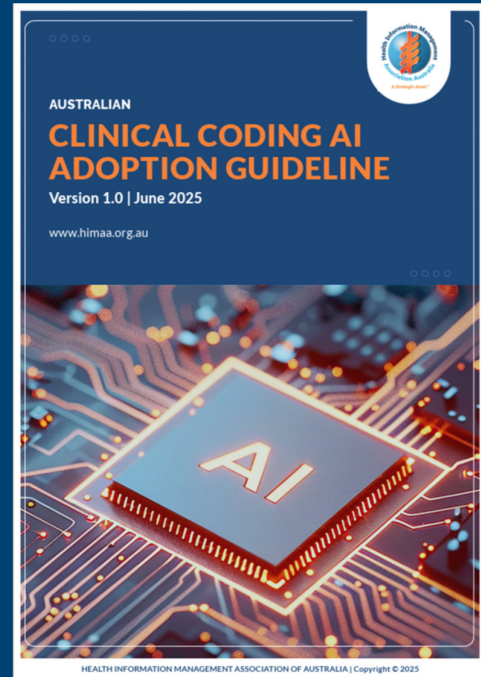
Australian Clinical Coding AI Adoption Guideline

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CEO

Health Information Management Association of Australia

PCSI Conference, Quebec, 11th September 2025



Health Information Management Association of Australia

Professional Association since 1949



We empower, advocate and support health information management professionals to contribute to better healthcare through management and use of information

Positioning and Advocacy

Profession Advancement

Accreditation of University Degrees

Education - national and international courses

Conferences, events, webinars

Certification and Credentialing

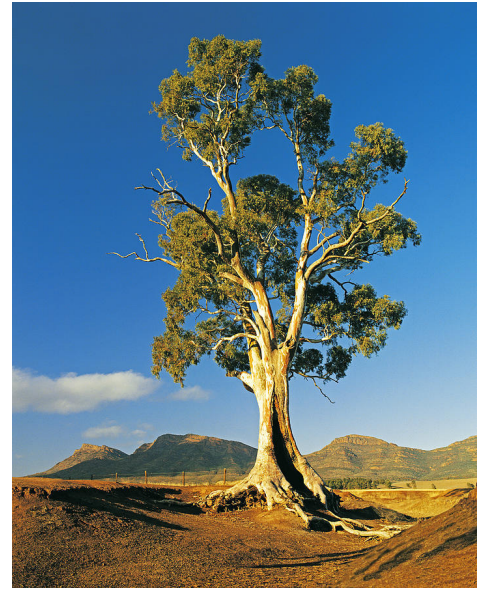
Guidelines, Frameworks and Standards

Publications

Networking and connection

What we will cover

- Australian Clinical Coding Context
- Clinical Coding Automation
- Opportunities for AI and Clinical Coding
- Barriers to the Adoption of AI for Clinical Coding
- Developing the Australian Clinical Coding AI Adoption Guideline
- Clinical Coding and AI Adoption Principles
- Clinical Coding AI Adoption Status Feb 2025
- Future

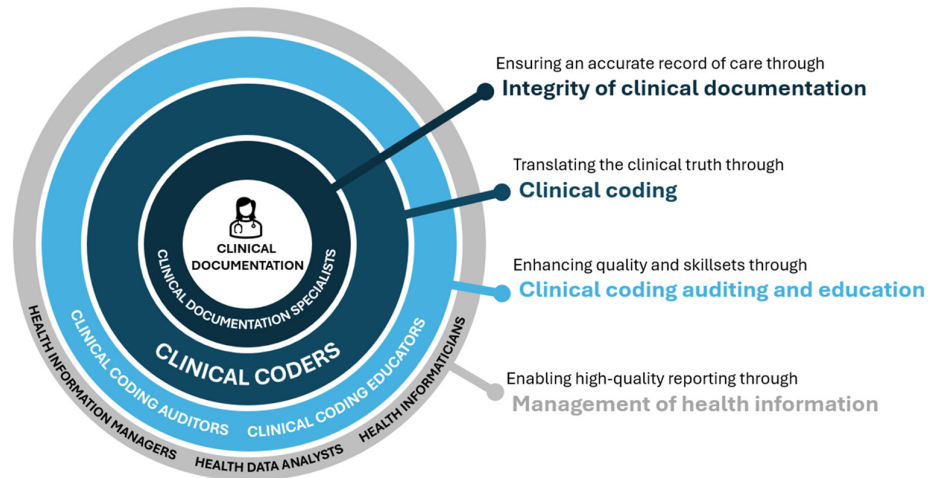
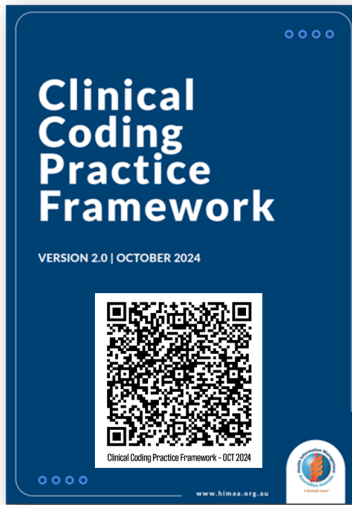


Australian Clinical Coding Context

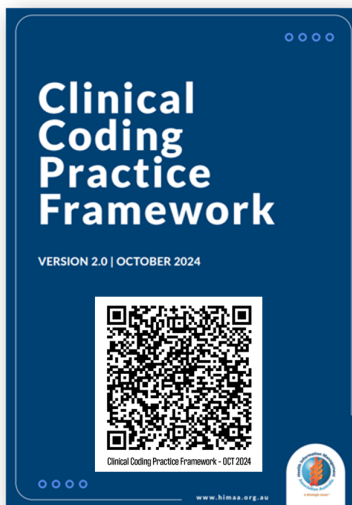


- Using ICD-10-AM /ACHI / ACS
- 13th edition from 1 July 2025
- Morbidity coding following inpatient episodes of care
- Principal diagnosis, additional diagnoses, procedures/interventions
- All public and private hospitals
- Licensed by IHACPA

Australian Clinical Coding Context

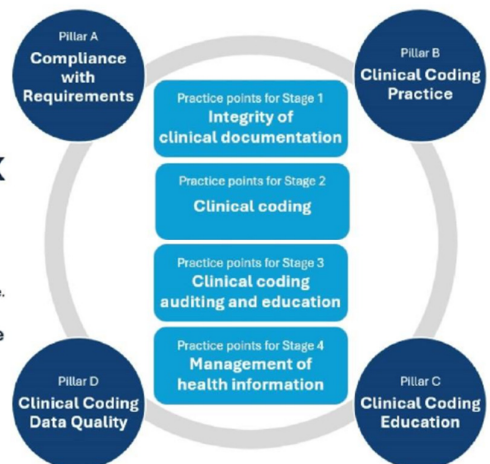


Australian Clinical Coding Context



CLINICAL CODING PRACTICE FRAMEWORK

- 
Pillar requirements for health services.
 The pillars focus on the policies, systems and processes maintained to support good practice.
- 
Practice points for the stages of the clinical coding process.
 The practice points focus on the high priority areas in promoting good practice.

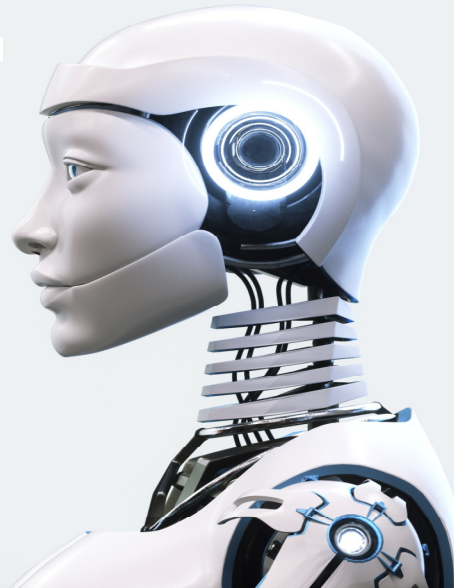


Clinical Coding and AI

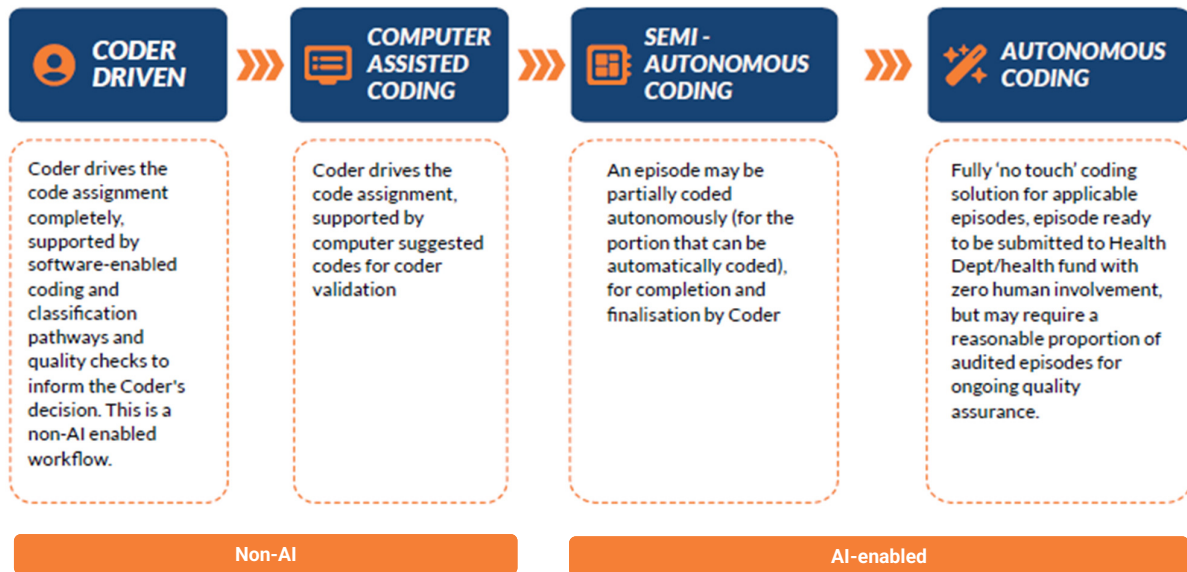
AI technologies offer significant potential to enhance clinical documentation integrity, enable autonomous coding, support clinical coding audits, and improve health information management.

However, adopting AI to generate clinically coded data is complex. It must be navigated within a landscape shaped by the intricacies of clinical documentation, classification systems, funding and reporting requirements, human expertise, legislative and standards compliance, privacy and security concerns, risk management, ethical considerations, and the ongoing drive for safety, quality, and efficiency.





Executive Summary



Clinical Coding Automation



Opportunities for AI to be applied to Clinical Coding

 INTEGRITY OF CLINICAL DOCUMENTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identifying missing, ambiguous and conflicting source clinical documentation to be rectified
 CLINICAL CODING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contextual abstraction of key words and phrases for the capture of clinical concepts and filtering concepts already capturedApplying classification rules based on clinical documentation and patient characteristics to assign codes
 CLINICAL CODING AUDITING AND EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Identifying which edits/rules will trigger external validation and providing justificationIdentifying which coded results to auditIdentifying potential funder rejectionTriggering review based on previous audit results
 MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH INFORMATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Supporting data, analytics and benchmarking of performanceEnabling the use of clinical coded data for other explicitly agreed use casesImproving timeliness of management of health information

The Future of Clinical Coding and AI

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Opinion: Think AI and clinical coding is easy? Not so fast

23 October 2024

By Sallyanne Wissmann



Image: Getty Images

I'd like to challenge the assumption that clinical coding is an 'easy picking' for AI. As I argue, it will be a long time before AI enables all care providers to write, type and speak their clinical notes in a consistent matter in the hospital setting.



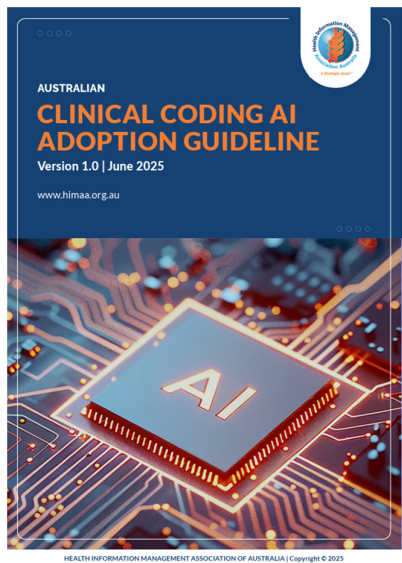
Opinion: Think AI and clinical coding is easy?
Not so fast - Pulse+IT

Barriers to the Adoption of AI for Clinical Coding



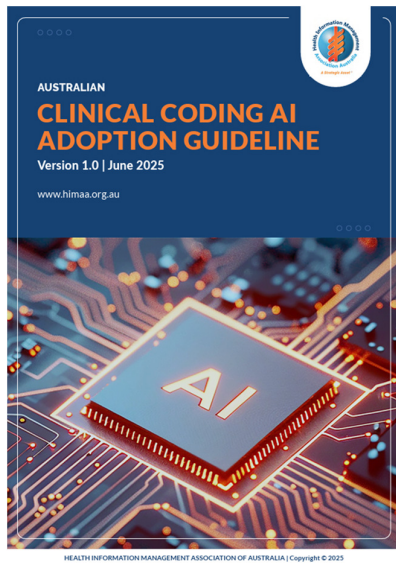
- AI model readiness
- Change management capability
- Lack of trust in AI solutions
- Investment & cost barriers
- Workforce readiness and training
- Integration challenges
- Regulatory & governance context
- Lack of digitized medical records
- Risk appetite
- Cybersecurity & data privacy risks

Developing the Australian Clinical Coding AI Adoption Guideline



Australian Clinical Coding AI Adoption Guideline
V1_0 June 2025

Australian Clinical Coding AI Adoption Guideline



Clinical Coding and AI Adoption Principles



Clinical Coding and AI Adoption Principle Example



2. Risk Management

Risk identification and management ensures AI assisted clinical coding is progressed in a way that minimises harm, loss and unintended consequences.

2.1 Risks associated with AI in clinical coding are identified, documented, and mitigated. Potential risks to patient safety are monitored and addressed promptly.

Potential sources of risk include:

- Misinterpretation and assumptions regarding the validity of source data
- Incomplete source data
- Biases associated with AI generated clinical documentation
- Inappropriate/unauthorised source data accessed
- Incorrect application of classification systems
- Inability to use AI due to downtime to any of the integrated systems
- Risk of de-skilling the workforce who may build a dependency on AI to complete the coding task
- Privacy and security risks
- Fraud if AI systems produce unvalidated 'over-coding' resulting in higher reimbursement

2.2 Ongoing monitoring and oversight mechanisms are crucial for detecting and addressing emerging risks. This includes establishing a feedback loop that allows users to report errors or concerns, as well as automated monitoring systems that flag potential issues in real-time, regular auditing, continuous improvement through feedback and new data, and ongoing staff training to enhance AI accuracy and reliability.

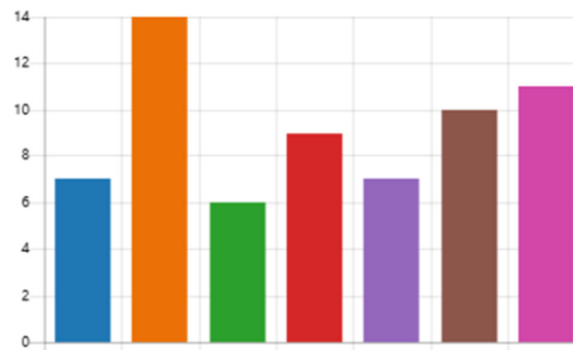
Clinical Coding AI Adoption Status Feb 2025

Sample: 31



4. Which of the following have you participated in, related to AI and clinical coding?

- Developed AI for clinical coding 7
- Assessed AI technologies for c... 14
- Implemented AI technologies ... 6
- Attended training related to A... 9
- Used AI technologies for clinic... 7
- Undertaken research into AI a... 10
- None of the above 11



Clinical Coding AI Adoption Status Feb 2025

Sample: 31

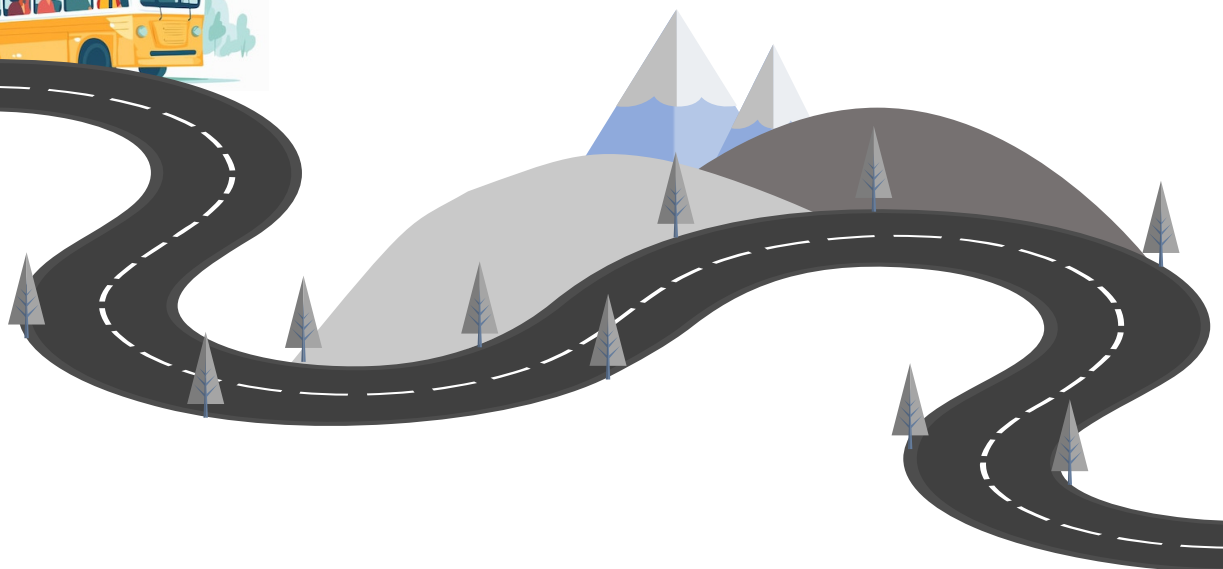
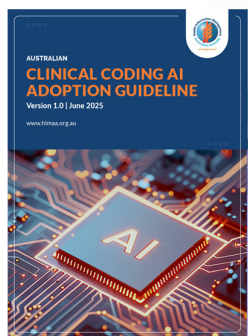


5. If you work in healthcare, which of the following best describes your organisation's use of AI to produce clinical coding?

- My organisation has started to use AI to produce clinical coding 1
- My organisation is currently assessing using AI for clinical coding 10
- My organisation has not started exploring using AI for clinical coding 4
- I do not know 5
- Not applicable 11



The Future...





Connect with me on
LinkedIn
or email
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I'd love to hear your feedback and experiences with AI and Clinical Coding

Health Information Management Association of Australia

