

*THE MACHINE AS CO-PILOT, THE NURSE IN COMMAND: ETHICAL BOUNDARIES OF
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION*

**A MÁQUINA COMO COPILOTO, O ENFERMEIRO NO COMANDO: FRONTEIRAS ÉTICAS DA
INTELIGÊNCIA ARTIFICIAL NA PRODUÇÃO CIENTÍFICA**

*LA MÁQUINA COMO COPILOTO, LA ENFERMERA AL MANDO: LÍMITES ÉTICOS DE LA INTELIGENCIA
ARTIFICIAL EN LA PRODUCCIÓN CIENTÍFICA*

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The rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools into academia has transformed how we produce and consume science. In Nursing, a field where Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) drives innovation and patient safety, the use of these technologies demands an urgent debate among researchers and professionals regarding boundaries, responsibilities, and ethics¹.

The first and most sensitive aspect of this discussion concerns ethical-legal issues and authorship, prompting broad reflection on the adoption of this technology in scientific writing^{2,3}. No matter how advanced AI may be, it operates by processing pre-existing data patterns and lacks the capacity for moral, clinical, or legal accountability. Therefore, attributing authorship to an algorithm or copying its text verbatim, without proper credit or critical rewriting, constitutes plagiarism, violating scientific integrity guidelines and our profession's codes of ethics. The human author is, and will always remain, solely responsible, both legally and scientifically, for the veracity and impact of the presented data⁴.

Furthermore, the search for scientific articles has been revolutionized by generative AI and semantic search engines capable of scanning vast healthcare databases in seconds. However, this convenience brings an imperative need for the conscious and ethical use of information¹. We know these tools are prone to "hallucinations", the generation of fictitious references or distorted interpretations of health data⁴. Nursing researchers must act as rigorous filters, validating primary



sources and ensuring that the evidence used is genuine, peer-reviewed, and methodologically sound^{5,6}.

Despite the challenges, the opportunities are immense. The major advantage AI offers is time optimization. By delegating operational and repetitive tasks, such as the initial structuring of ideas, text formatting, translation, and preliminary literature screening, researchers gain valuable time and breathing room⁴. This time saved can and should be redirected toward what the machine cannot do: theoretical deepening, critical analysis of results, and the clinical contextualization of findings within the complex reality of human nursing care^{5,7}.

It is concluded that the coherent and ethical use of Artificial Intelligence in scientific production does not mean rejecting technological advancement, but rather mastering it wisely. AI should be viewed as a support tool, a "copilot" that enhances research efforts—while the nurse-researcher remains firmly in command, guided by ethics, critical judgment, and an unwavering commitment to authentic, life-saving science.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence; Research Ethics; Academic Writing; Nursing Research.

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