

RESEARCH, TRANSLATED · ACCURACY · SAFETY

The notes read clean. *The errors hide in what's missing.*

A validation study of AI scribe accuracy, translated for the practice that already uses one, or is about to.

WHAT THIS IS

A plain-language translation of Biro and colleagues, "Accuracy and Safety of AI-Enabled Scribe Technology," Journal of Medical Internet Research, published January 27, 2025, from MedStar Health Research Institute.

HOW TO USE IT

Read this before you trust any AI scribe output without review. Then build the review habit into your workflow with Documentation Prompt Basics in Stage 4.

What the study did

Researchers ran **44 simulated outpatient encounters** through **two commercial ambient AI scribe products** and audited every draft note the tools produced. Simulated encounters mean the team controlled exactly what was said, so every omission and error in the drafts was detectable.

What it found

70%

"There were 127 errors (mean 2.9, SD 2.7 errors per draft note) in 31 of 44 (70%) draft notes." Omission errors, things said in the encounter but missing from the note, were the most frequent error type in both products.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOUR PRACTICE

This is not a reason to avoid AI scribes. It is the reason the review step is not optional. Omissions deserve special attention because they were the most frequent error type in this study and are easy to miss in a clean-reading draft. The AMA's governance guidance says the same thing: physicians review and approve every AI-generated note before it is finalized. Once you review, approve, and sign the note, it is treated as your final documentation for the professional, billing, and organizational purposes that apply.

Honest scope

This was a simulation study of two products at one point in time, with 44 encounters. It is not a claim that 70% of all AI notes in live practice contain errors, and newer product versions may perform differently. It suggests a practical review heuristic: check first for what is missing, then for what is wrong.

SOURCES · CHECK OUR WORK

Biro J, Handley JL, Cobb NK, et al. Accuracy and Safety of AI-Enabled Scribe Technology: Instrument Validation Study. J Med Internet Res. 2025;27:e64993. [jmir.org/2025/1/e64993](https://www.jmir.org/2025/1/e64993)

Full text: [pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11811668](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11811668)

AMA STEPS Forward. Governance for Augmented Intelligence. edhub.ama-assn.org/steps-forward/module/2833560

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