



# Leveraging AI Scribes to Support Family Doctors



## Call to Action

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) urges the federal government to honour its election campaign promise to reduce administrative burden on family physicians by:

- **Ensuring sustained funding to fully cover the costs of adopting AI scribe technology for family doctors.**
  - This policy is estimated to require \$100 million per year, the amount the Liberal campaign platform earmarked for reduction of administrative burden in its [Fiscal and Costing Plan](#).
- Passing legislation, such as the [Connected Care for Canadians Act](#) and the proposed [Artificial Intelligence and Data Act](#), to **shift the responsibility for data quality and security away from physicians and toward AI solution vendors.**

Family doctors are the foundation of health care, but excessive administrative burden is driving them to leave practice, reduce hours, or choose other specialties. Action is needed to recognize their value, stabilize the workforce, and make family medicine sustainable and attractive.<sup>1</sup>

**AI scribes** can help reduce this burden by transcribing and summarizing visits in real time, updating electronic medical records, and generating documents such as referral letters.<sup>2</sup>

**AI scribe subscriptions must be freely available** to all family doctors in Canada through government subsidies to improve sustainability and appeal of family medicine and support family doctors.

## Benefits of AI Scribes

The responsible, human-verified use of AI scribes is key to **reducing administrative burden and saving time**. This time can go toward patient care, follow-ups, or simply to avoid after-hours charting, reducing family doctor burnout.



Saves 64 minutes per day (five hours a week). This time could be used to see four more patients per day.<sup>1</sup>



Reduces the cognitive burden of visits – family doctors can be more present with patients.<sup>2</sup>



Proven to decrease after-hours charting, improving work-life balance.<sup>3,4,5</sup>

## Barriers to Adoption

Despite the proven benefits of AI, only 28 per cent of doctors use AI scribes.<sup>1</sup> Barriers to adoption include:

- Annual licence fees of \$800 to \$2,000 is a major concern. With 28 per cent to 75 per cent of gross income already going to overhead, many family doctors cannot afford this new technology.<sup>1,6,7</sup> A patchwork of financial supports exist at the national<sup>8</sup> and provincial levels.<sup>9</sup> However, these initiatives are time-limited or jurisdiction-specific and do not provide the long-term certainty family physicians need to adopt AI tools confidently without further sacrificing the financial viability of comprehensive practice.
- Uncertainty around compliance, data handling, confidentiality, and liability when integrating AI into clinical documentation.<sup>1,10</sup>
- Lack of integration and interoperability with current systems causes inefficiencies and frustration.<sup>11</sup>

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If you have any questions or suggestions about CFPC advocacy please contact us at [info@cfpc.ca](mailto:info@cfpc.ca).

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