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Medical Transcription Using Artificial Intelligence

Nayana Joshi
Department of Computer science,
Vishwakarma College of Arts, Commerce and Science,
Pune, Maharashtra, India

Neha Dhadiwal
Department of Computer science,
Vishwakarma College of Arts, Commerce and Science,
Pune, Maharashtra, India

***Abstract*—Medical transcription (MT) plays a critical role in clinical documentation, but traditional workflows are labor-intensive, error-prone, and time-consuming. Artificial intelligence (AI)—especially automatic speech recognition (ASR) and natural language processing (NLP)—has transformed transcription into a fast, scalable, and more accurate process. This paper reviews the evolution, methodologies, applications, accuracy considerations, limitations, and future directions of AI-based medical transcription. The findings show that AI-driven transcription can significantly reduce documentation time and improve clinical efficiency, though challenges regarding accuracy, privacy, and domain adaptation remain.**

Keywords—Medical Transcription; AI; Natural Language Processing

I INTRODUCTION

Clinical documentation is essential for patient care, legal compliance, billing, and communication among healthcare providers. Historically, medical transcriptionists converted clinicians' dictated notes into written records. With increasing documentation burdens, AI-based automated transcription has emerged as a promising solution (Artificial Intelligence–Powered Documentation Systems, 2023). AI systems now perform tasks such as audio-to-text conversion, semantic structuring, and extraction of medical terminology . These systems reduce clinician workload, minimize transcription delays, and improve record quality [1]

II. BACKGROUND

A. Traditional Medical Transcription Traditional MT involves dictation, manual typing, and extensive review. Issues include delayed turnaround, workforce costs, and inconsistent quality [2]

B. Emergence of AI in Transcription Advances in deep learning, neural ASR models, and transformer-based NLP have resulted in real-time transcription systems with enhanced contextual understanding [3]. Models contain complex medical terminology.

III. AI TECHNIQUES IN MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION

A. Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR)

AI-driven ASR uses recurrent neural networks, convolutional networks, and transformer-based architectures [4]. Effective clinical ASR must handle

accents, speech variability, and noisy environments [5]. Medical ASR engines have demonstrated strong benchmark performance but still vary by specialty (Emergency ASR Comparative Study, 2022).

B. Natural Language Processing (NLP)
NLP enhances transcription by:

- Understanding context,
- Structuring documents (e.g., HPI,
- ROS, Assessment),
- Detecting errors,
- Improving readability,
- Mapping terms to clinical ontology's
- (ICD-10, SNOMED CT).

C. Large Language Models (LLMs)

LLMs can:

- Auto-format clinical notes,
- Summarize patient encounters,
- Distinguish speakers,
- Identify key clinical entities,
- Generate high-quality structured
- documentation.

IV .APPLICATIONS OF AI-BASED MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTION

A. Real-Time Scribing

AI "virtual scribe" systems capture conversations during patient encounters and instantly produce documentation.

B. Post-Visit Transcription

Recordings are uploaded, and AI systems generate transcripts for clinician review.

C. Radiology and Pathology Reporting

Specialized ASR models efficiently handle repetitive, structured dictations.

D. Integration with EHR Systems

AI transcription tools integrate directly with electronic health record (EHR) platforms, automatically populating fields.

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V. BENEFITS

A. Increased Efficiency

AI reduces transcription time from hours to seconds.

B. Cost Reduction

Automated transcription reduces dependency on human transcriptionists.

C. Improved Accuracy

Modern ASR systems exceed 90–95% accuracy in controlled environments, approaching human-level transcription.

D. Reduced Clinician Burnout

AI-based documentation reduces administrative burden—a key contributor to clinician burnout.

VI CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

A. Speech Variability

Accents, speed, and background noise still degrade ASR accuracy.

B. Medical Terminology Errors

Rare diseases, new drugs, and abbreviations may be mis-transcribed.

C. Data Privacy & Security

Compliance with HIPAA, GDPR, and local regulations is essential. On-device or encrypted processing is often required.

D. Need for Human Oversight

Human review ensures correctness, especially for legal and medico-legal documentation.

E. Bias and Domain Adaptation

Models may underperform for certain populations or specialties without specific training data.

VII. EVALUATION METRICS

Common metrics used to evaluate AI transcription performance:

A. Word Error Rate (WER) –

standard metric for ASR accuracy.

B. Character Error Rate (CER) –

useful for short utterances.

C. Concept Error Rate –

checks accuracy of key medical concepts.

D. Semantic Similarity Scores –

measure overall clinical correctness.

VIII. FUTURE DIRECTIONS

A. Multimodal AI

Combining audio, clinical notes, and patient context to enhance accuracy.

B. Personalized ASR

Models trained on individual clinicians' voice patterns and vocabulary.

C. Fully Autonomous Documentation

LLMs will generate structured notes without explicit dictation.

D. On-device and Edge Computing

Improves privacy by eliminating cloud transmission.

E. Regulatory Frameworks

Standards for safe deployment of AI-driven clinical transcription systems.

IX. CONCLUSION

AI-driven medical transcription significantly enhances clinical documentation with faster processing, improved accuracy, and reduced clinician workload. While technological and regulatory challenges remain, continued advancements in ASR and NLP are rapidly transforming AI transcription into a reliable, mainstream clinical tool. Integration of AI with EHRs, enhanced domain adaptation, and improved privacy models will define the next stage of evolution in this field.

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