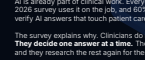
CLINICIAN TRUST IN AI SURVEY: 2026

How Clinicians Use AI and What Drives Their Trust

AI is already part of clinical work. Everyone who answered our November 2026 survey uses it on the job, and 60% use it every day. Even so, 90% still verify AI answers that touch patient care or clinical documentation.

The survey explains why. Clinicians do not decide once whether to trust AI. **They decide one answer at a time.** They trust the answers they can check, and they research the rest again for themselves.



The Checking Starts When an Answer Looks Wrong

We asked respondents what prompted their last double check of an AI answer. The most common answer, at 45%, was that **the answer looked wrong to them.** Being the one held responsible came second at 40%, and a quarter said they did not understand where the answer came from.

That is clinical judgment at work. These are regular users of AI, and their caution starts with the answer in front of them.







What They Fear Is Patient Harm

Asked what concerns them most about AI in clinical work, respondents put this pattern first ahead of themselves. **The checking is how they protect the patient.**

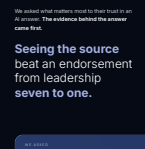
84% chose **errors that reach patients.** No other concern came close.

21% chose being **held responsible for the AI's mistakes.**

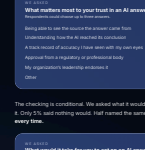
Trust Follows the Source

We asked what matters most to their trust in an AI answer. **The evidence behind the answer came first.**

Seeing the source beat an endorsement from leadership **seven to one.**



The checking is conditional. We asked what it would take to act on an AI answer without verifying it. Only 5% said nothing would. Half named the same condition: **a clear citation to the source, every time.**



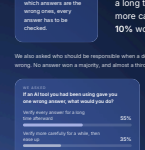
Trust cannot be handed down from the top of an organization. Clinicians give it to the answers they can check for themselves.

One Wrong Answer Undoes a Lot of Trust

A high accuracy rate does not solve this. If a clinician cannot tell which answers are the wrong ones, every answer has to be checked.

After one wrong answer, **55%** would verify every answer for a long time, **35%** would check more carefully for a while, and **10%** would stop using the tool.

We also asked who should be responsible when a decision made with help from AI turns out to be wrong. No answer won a majority, and almost a third of respondents were not sure.



Five Things That Earn a Clinician's Trust

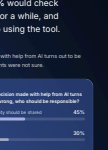
1	**Show the source with every answer**	An answer with its source can be confirmed quickly.
2	**Let them watch it be right**	40% want a track record they have seen firsthand.
3	**Validate it formally**	40% look for regulatory or professional approval.
4	**Settle who is responsible**	30% are unsure who is responsible when AI is wrong.
5	**Plan for the first wrong answer**	Most would verify every answer after one mistake.

What Clinicians Are Asking For

None of this asks clinicians to be less careful. **It asks the people who build and deploy AI to make careful work take less time.** The people we surveyed were specific about what that takes: the source in front of them, a track record they can watch grow, formal validation, and a clear answer about who is responsible when the tool is wrong. Those are reasonable terms. Meet them, and every answer gives a clinician a reason to trust the next one.

About This Survey

Carta Healthcare conducted the Clinician Trust in AI survey by email between October 21 and November 11, 2026. Respondents work at hospitals and health systems across the United States. Percentages show the share of respondents who chose each answer, and questions that allowed more than one answer add to more than 100. When a respondent answered more than once, we counted the most recent complete response. This was a pulse survey, and its results are directional.



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