Celebrating Corporate Compliance and Ethics Week, Nov. 3-9, 2023 – also known as Compliance Week at the University of New Mexico and UNM Health Sciences Center (HSC).

The Role of AI in Healthcare Compliance

Advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) are transforming healthcare, including healthcare compliance. AI systems have the ability to be configured via algorithms to the specifications of the healthcare entity it serves. While HSC Compliance isn't currently using AI, we are exploring opportunities for how to potentially use it in the future. Some of the main functions AI could potentially assist healthcare compliance departments with are:

- help compliance offices stay current with changing regulations;

- analyze historical data to anticipate potential compliance risks;

- recognize and detect patterns to screen for irregularities in data;

- aid in the detection of audit and control deficiencies;

- monitor billing practices;

- aid in employee training through interactive programs.

Along with the ways AI can benefit healthcare compliance, it is important to be mindful of any potential risks. A primary concern with AI is data privacy, and the danger of data breaches of large data sets. Ensuring the safety of sensitive patient information is paramount to all healthcare entities. If not appropriately governed or monitored, AI could pose significant threats across an entire healthcare entity. Therefore, having highly-detailed policies, procedures, and guidelines that are being continuously updated to keep pace with the rapidly-changing landscape of AI is essential.

Overall, AI has the potential to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of compliance functions to better assist healthcare entities. AI's ability to identify, mitigate, and monitor compliance risks offers substantial advantages to healthcare organizations, enabling compliance departments to proactively address potential issues before they become harmful.