RB Weekly AI Brief - Issue 10 - 09.06.2026

Covering the week of 09.06.2026 · Issue 10 of the RB Weekly AI Brief

Recurring themes: Regulatory & HTA Signals (3 of last 4 issues) · Regulation & Policy (3 of last 4 issues) · Healthcare & Life Sciences (3 of last 4 issues) · Models & Research (3 of last 4 issues)

AI News Roundup

Regulatory & HTA Signals

Final Reminder: EU Commission Draft High-Risk AI Classification Guidelines Consultation Closes 23 June
With two weeks remaining, the European Commission's targeted stakeholder consultation on draft AI Act classification guidelines closes 23 June 2026. Published 19 May under Article 6(5), the guidelines clarify when AI systems qualify as high-risk — including AI embedded in medical devices and SaMD — and introduce a filter mechanism that could exempt narrow-function systems from full high-risk obligations. Final guidelines will directly shape how national regulators enforce AI Act compliance obligations.

So what? *This is the last issue before the 23 June deadline — pharma and medtech companies that have not yet reviewed these draft guidelines against their AI system portfolios should do so immediately, and consider whether a formal consultation response is warranted.*

European Commission

Regulation & Policy

EU AI Act Enforcement Gains Independent Expert Support Ahead of August 2026 Deadline
On 1 June 2026, the European Commission announced the appointment of a Scientific Panel of 60 independent experts and an Advisory Forum to support enforcement of the AI Act. The two bodies will advise the Commission's AI Office and national authorities on applying rules, focusing on general-purpose AI models, systemic risks, model classification, and cross-border market surveillance. Transparency obligations requiring AI systems to identify themselves as AI when interacting with users apply from 2 August 2026.

So what? *With transparency obligations applying from August 2026, pharma companies deploying patient-facing AI tools — including chatbots, decision-support systems, and AI-assisted diagnosis platforms — need immediate confirmation that their systems meet disclosure and human-oversight requirements before the summer deadline.*

European Commission

Healthcare & Life Sciences

Over 200 AI-Discovered Drugs Now in Clinical Development; First FDA Approval Projected 2027–28
The AI drug discovery pipeline reached a significant milestone in 2026, with more than 200 AI-discovered drugs now in clinical development — 94 in Phase 1, 56 in Phase 2, and 15 in Phase 3 — though none have yet received FDA approval. Analysts project roughly 60% probability that the first AI-discovered drug will receive FDA approval in 2027 or 2028. Key players include Insilico Medicine and Isomorphic Labs (Google DeepMind), which has secured nearly $3 billion in partnership deals with Eli Lilly and Novartis.

So what? *As the first AI-designed drugs approach potential approval, HTA bodies and payer evidence teams must begin developing frameworks for assessing the clinical validity and comparative effectiveness of molecules whose target and structure were both computationally generated — a fundamentally different evidence profile from traditionally developed compounds.*

Drug Target Review

Models & Research

Microsoft Unveils Seven In-House MAI Models at Build 2026

At Build 2026 on 2 June, Microsoft unveiled a family of seven new in-house AI models under the MAI brand, marking a strategic shift toward model self-sufficiency. The headline model, MAI-Thinking-1, is a 35-billion-parameter reasoning model trained from scratch on clean, commercially licensed data with no distillation from OpenAI or other third-party models. The family also includes MAI-Code-1-Flash (now in GitHub Copilot), MAI-Image-2.5, MAI-Transcribe-1.5, and MAI-Voice-2, all available through Azure AI Foundry.

So what? *Microsoft's emphasis on clean data provenance, compliance-boundary fine-tuning, and Azure data residency directly addresses the regulatory and IP governance concerns that have slowed adoption of third-party LLMs in regulated drug development and HEOR workflows.*

Microsoft

Academic Paper Summaries

Selected from PubMed · Published within the last 12 months · New selections each week

Domain Paper — HEOR / Health Economics / Market Access

Applications of artificial intelligence and the challenges in health technology assessment: a scoping review and framework with a focus on economic dimensions.

Ramezani M, Bakhtiari A, Daroudi R, et al. · Health Economics Review · 2025

#HTA · #HEOR · #ClinicalAI

This scoping review examined the opportunities and challenges of using AI in health technology assessment, with a specific focus on economic dimensions. Researchers searched PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science and found that AI significantly enhances HTA by enabling more comprehensive analyses, improving economic evaluation frameworks, and supporting both pre-market and post-market assessments. For HEOR and market access professionals, this provides a structured framework for understanding where AI can strengthen — and where it may challenge — the evidence standards expected by HTA bodies.

PMID: 40461901	PubMed →	DOI →

AI Research Paper 1

Potential Meets Practicality: AI's Current Impact on the Evidence Generation and Synthesis Pipeline in Health Economics.

Naylor NR, et al. · Clinical and Translational Science · 2025

#HEOR · #ClinicalAI · #RealWorldEvidence

This paper reviews practical and emerging applications of AI across the three core pillars of HEOR — evidence synthesis (including SLRs), economic modelling, and real-world evidence generation. The authors find AI has demonstrated measurable ability to reduce time and cost in evidence synthesis, while applications in economic modelling remain in earlier stages. For pharma and market access teams, this provides a useful map of where AI-assisted HEOR tools are mature enough to deploy and where caution and validation are still required. PubMed indexing pending — access via DOI.

PMID: Pending	PubMed →	DOI →

AI Research Paper 2

Diagnostic systematic review and meta-analysis of machine learning in predicting biochemical recurrence of prostate cancer.

Ling C, Tao N, Maimaitiyimin A, et al. · Scientific reports · 2025

#ClinicalAI · #Oncology · #Diagnostics

This study pooled results from 16 studies covering over 17,000 prostate cancer patients to assess how well AI and machine learning models predict cancer recurrence after initial treatment. The models achieved strong predictive accuracy (AUC of 0.82), outperforming traditional clinical methods, with short-term recurrence prediction being particularly reliable. For healthcare executives, this signals that AI-driven tools could meaningfully improve post-treatment monitoring and personalised care decisions in prostate cancer, though larger validation trials are still needed before routine clinical adoption.

PMID: 40760134	PubMed →	DOI →