AI used *well*

Using AI to put events in date order

An example of asking AI to build a timeline from a set of records, and of checking what it gives back. **The records, the answer and the mistake are all made up by us** to show how this works and what can go wrong. We have not timed it, so we do not say how long it takes. No real person, patient or case appears.

01 The job

A bundle of GP notes, a discharge summary and two occupational health reports. You need a list of what happened and when — the injury, the treatment, the time off — for a report due on Friday. Done by hand, it takes a good part of a day.

02 What we asked it to do

Not "summarise this". We said what we wanted back, in what order, and what to do when the records do not say — which is the part most people leave out.

> "From the text below, build a table with three columns: date, event, source page. One row per dated event, earliest first. Use only dates written in the text. Where a date is approximate, copy the words used. **If an event has no date in the text, list it under 'undated' rather than estimating one.**"

03 What came back, and the mistake in it

A table, and most of it was right. This row was not:

> **14 March 2024 — Referred to physiotherapy (p. 11)**
> Page 11 says "referred to physio following review", and the review is dated 14 March. The referral itself has no date anywhere in the notes. The AI filled one in. It looks right, and it is not in the records.

This is the kind of mistake that matters in our work. It is not nonsense — it reads perfectly. If it reached your report, you would be stating a date that no page supports.

04 Two checks, not one

First, check what it gave you. Every row names a page, so take each date to that page and ask whether the date is actually written there. Check dates first — they are what AI makes up most confidently. Do the same with names and figures. Anything that fails, move to "no date given", where it belonged.

> **That is not enough on its own,** and this is where most advice stops. Checking the rows you were given can only tell you about the rows you were given. It tells you nothing about something the AI left out, and leaving things out is silent. So check the other way too: go through the records, mark every line with a date in it, and make sure each one reached the table. If the bundle is too long to read twice, do this for the parts that decide the question — the injury, the treatment, the time off — and say in your report which parts you checked that way.

05 What you end up with

A timeline put together much faster than by hand, then checked — with one row corrected and a few honest "no date given" entries, which are more use to you than a date someone made up. Drafting is the quick part. Checking is the work, and it is yours: the report goes out in your name. And you now know the two ways AI gets this wrong — what it makes up, and what it leaves out.

AI can draft this. Checking it is your job, and it is not optional.

AI used well · aiusedwell.org · run by Monica Garcia Consulting Ltd in cooperation with Maria Morris. An example, not a timed test: every name, date, record and answer above is made up by us, and we claim no timings. General guidance, not legal or clinical advice; your professional and regulatory duties come first. Never put real client, patient or case material into a general AI tool.