PriMera Scientific
Medicine and Public Health
Volume 7 Issue 2 August 2025
ISSN: 2833-5627

Blockchain-Powered Healthcare: A Secure, Decentralized Future for Medical Records

Type: Short Communication
Received: May 27, 2025
Published: August 01, 2025

Citation:
N Sharmili. "Blockchain-Powered Healthcare: A Secure, Decentralized Future for Medical Records". PriMera Scientific Medicine and Public Health 7.2 (2025): 20-21.

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Medical images play a crucial role in diagnosis and treatment. However, as digital technologies transform healthcare, medical data—including images—face growing risks of leakage, tampering, and misuse. These vulnerabilities pose serious threats to patient privacy, highlighting the urgent need for more secure and transparent solutions to manage sensitive health information.

At the same time, timely access to quality healthcare remains a significant challenge worldwide. In India, for example, over 2.4 million people die prematurely each year due to inadequate access to appropriate healthcare at critical moments. Long patient wait times, fragmented medical records, and overwhelmed hospital systems—especially during crises like COVID-19—have exposed severe gaps in healthcare delivery. Patients often face difficulties transferring medical data across hospitals, and overcrowded systems make scheduling appointments unpredictable and inefficient.

Blockchain-based healthcare systems offer transformative solutions to address these inefficiencies. By adopting a decentralized model for managing patient records and appointments, these systems ensure that sensitive data remains secure, tamper-proof, and accessible only to authorized users. One key feature is a smart appointment scheduling system that reduces waiting times by allowing patients to view doctor availability and book, reschedule, or cancel appointments in real time. Another important element is the secure sharing and updating of medical records via smart contracts, enabling doctors, researchers, and pharmacists to collaborate while safeguarding patient privacy. Role-based access control further strengthens data security by granting specific permissions to different stakeholders—such as admins, doctors, patients, pharmacists, and researchers—tailored to their responsibilities. Collectively, these innovations aim to enhance healthcare efficiency, protect patient privacy, and foster medical research through a trusted, transparent digital ecosystem.

These blockchain healthcare systems rely on a robust, modern technology stack to deliver security, efficiency, and intelligent data management. Ethereum serves as the foundational platform, providing a decentralized, permissionless blockchain environment where smart contracts govern patient records and healthcare transactions securely. MetaMask acts as a secure gateway for authenticated users—including patients, doctors, and researchers—to interact seamlessly with the blockchain. Ganache offers a controlled local blockchain environment for safe development and testing of smart contracts before deployment on the Ethereum mainnet. To support intelligent data analysis, Python 3.13 is employed to integrate machine learning models that identify patterns in medical records and

predict patient behavior. Additionally, TabPFN, a specialized machine learning model based on transformer architecture, is used for rapid and accurate classification of structured healthcare data, such as symptoms and diagnostic patterns, helping to enhance the precision and speed of medical data analysis. Together, these technologies form a scalable, transparent, and secure digital infrastructure that advances patient-centric healthcare management.

The Smart Tele-Healthcare system further extends these capabilities by combining blockchain, IPFS, and IoT technologies to securely monitor the health of bedridden and remotely located patients. Various IoT sensors continuously track vital parameters such as blood pressure, blood sugar, and body temperature, enabling real-time monitoring without hospital visits. Health data is stored on IPFS for scalable and efficient retrieval using unique hash identifiers, while blockchain ensures the immutability and controlled access of sensitive records through smart contracts. Authorized healthcare providers, caregivers, and patients can securely view and update medical information via cryptographically secured IDs, enhancing privacy and trust. Moreover, machine learning analyzes the sensor data to detect health trends and provide early warnings, supporting timely interventions and personalized care. This integrated approach significantly improves healthcare access and quality for patients needing continuous supervision outside traditional clinical settings.

By addressing long-standing issues such as appointment inefficiencies and fragmented health data, these blockchain-powered applications represent a significant advancement toward a more resilient, equitable, and technologically sophisticated healthcare ecosystem. In alignment with the mission of PriMera Scientific Medicine and Public Health, these innovations showcase the power of digital trust in delivering quality care safely, securely, and at the right time.