

# ONC Blockchain Challenge winners show health IT uses





A wide range of possible use cases for [blockchain in healthcare](#) are revealed in 15 papers chosen by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology as the top proposals among more than 70 that were submitted to the “[Blockchain Challenge](#)” sponsored by [ONC](#) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

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Some of the ideas will be presented at a workshop at [NIST](#) headquarters in Gaithersburg, Md. Sept. 26-27.

“We are thrilled by the incredible amount of interest in this challenge,” Vindell Washington, M.D., [national coordinator for health IT](#), said in a [release](#). “While many know about blockchain technology’s uses for digital currency purposes, the challenge submissions show its exciting potential for new, innovative uses in health care.”

The topics and applications for [blockchain](#) technology in healthcare in the 15 winning proposals (whose authors were awarded grants of \$1,500 to \$5,000) are:

- Establishing a [peer-to-peer](#) network to store and analyze health data with 100% privacy to use the data for [precision medicine](#) clinical trials and research
- Improving interoperability for information exchange, patient tracking and identity assurance and validation
- Improving healthcare claims processing, including using “[smart contracts](#)”
- Opportunities for using blockchain in health information exchange to satisfy [national healthcare objectives](#)
- A prototype decentralized record management system for electronic health records
- Using Internet of Things and blockchain technology for [patient-recorded outcome measures](#)
- Linking protected health information ([PHI](#)) to blockchain identities to verify credential providers to lower healthcare transaction costs and improve PHI security
- Using blockchain in the pre-authorization payment process and in clinical trials, and to prevent counterfeit drug production
- Storing patient health data securely
- [Predictive modeling](#) and improving health data interoperability between institutions
- A blockchain-based access control access control management system for health records
- Sharing patient data with network consensus instead of a single centralized source
- Enabling scalability and adoption of [accountable care](#) with peer-to-peer authorization and authentication

- Using blockchain and artificial intelligence to develop new ways of delivering healthcare in Medicaid programs
- Blockchain-based [alternative payment models](#) linking quality and value

All the submissions will be posted on ONC’s web site, [healthIT.gov](#), on Sept. 26, the start of National Health IT Week.

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