

The Role of NFTs in Protecting and Managing Patient Data

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Non-fungible tokens (NFTs) have gained significant attention in recent years as a revolutionary tool in various industries, including the arts, gaming, and even <u>real estate</u>. In the healthcare industry, NFTs have the potential to transform the way medical records are managed and accessed, improving both security and efficiency. In this article, we will explore the current state of medical record management and how NFTs can enhance the security and efficiency of this critical aspect of healthcare.

The current state of medical record management is a combination of paper and electronic records, both of which have their own set of challenges. Many healthcare providers still rely on

paper records, which can be cumbersome, prone to errors, and difficult to access and share. Electronic health records (EHRs) have become more widespread in recent years, but they can also be difficult to use, with many different systems that are not always interoperable, making it difficult to share and access patient data. Additionally, EHRs are vulnerable to cyber attacks, which can compromise the security and privacy of patient data.

NFTs have the potential to help address these challenges and improve the efficiency and security of medical record management. NFTs use blockchain technology, which allows for secure and decentralized record-keeping. This means that patient data is stored in a distributed network, making it more difficult to hack or tamper with. NFTs can also improve the interoperability of patient data, making it easier to share and access records across different healthcare systems and providers.

As well, NFTs could potentially allow patients to monetize control over their own medical data by enabling them to sell or license their data to interested parties, such as researchers or pharmaceutical companies. If a patient chose to sell access to their medical records to a researcher studying a particular disease, they could grant access to their records via an NFT. This would allow the researcher to view and analyze the data while maintaining the security and privacy of the records. In exchange for access to the data, the researcher could pay the patient a fee. This type of data sharing could potentially lead to advances in medical research and improve patient care, while also providing patients with an additional source of income.

As it is, there are several companies that are using or exploring the use of NFTs in healthcare:

- Medibloc is a healthcare startup that is using NFTs to store and manage patient records on a decentralized platform. The company aims to improve the security and accessibility of patient data and enable more personalized and data-driven healthcare.
- <u>Hashed Health</u> is a healthcare innovation firm that is using NFTs to improve the
 interoperability of electronic health records. The company's NFT platform allows different
 healthcare providers to share and access patient data in a secure and standardized way,
 improving the quality of care for patients.
- MAPay is using blockchain technology to improve and align incentives, reduce costs, and foster transparency and data exchange, has adopted the Algorand blockchain for its NFT based health data storage solution
- <u>Aimedis</u> aims to make eHealth secure, affordable, and accessible globally by combining health data, online prescriptions, and video consultation with doctors in one single platform and in multiple languages.

There are a few potential drawbacks and considerations to using NFTs in healthcare:

- Cost and complexity: Implementing NFTs in healthcare may be costly and complex, as it
 requires the integration of blockchain technology and the development of new systems
 and processes. This may be a significant barrier for some healthcare organizations,
 especially smaller ones.
- Ethical and privacy considerations: There are also ethical and privacy considerations to
 using NFTs in healthcare. For example, there may be concerns about the use of patient
 data for non-medical purposes or the potential for data breaches. It will be important for
 healthcare organizations to carefully consider these issues and put appropriate
 safeguards in place to protect patient privacy.
- Regulatory hurdles: The use of NFTs in healthcare may also face regulatory hurdles, as
 there may be concerns about the security and integrity of patient data on the blockchain.
 It will be important for healthcare organizations to work with regulators to ensure that
 NFT use is compliant with relevant laws and standards

It is likely that the use of NFTs in medical record management will continue to grow and evolve in the future. As more healthcare organizations adopt NFTs, there may be a greater need for standards and regulations to ensure the security and integrity of patient data on the blockchain. There may also be a need for additional education and training for healthcare providers on how to use and benefit from NFTs.

Overall, the future outlook for the use of NFTs in medical record management is promising, as NFTs have the potential to significantly improve the efficiency and security of healthcare.

Get in Touch

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