

# Secure Federated Learning for Privacy-Preserving Medical Record Sharing across Hospitals

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**Keywords:** Federated Learning, Privacy-Preserving, Medical Records, Secure Data Sharing, Healthcare Institutions.

**Abstract:** In the rapidly-changing era of eHealth, secure and effective inter-institutional data sharing is still a major issue. In this work, we introduce a federated learning method for privacy-preserving medical record sharing between a collection of hospitals. With the ability to train models in a decentralized manner, all without moving aggregated sensitive patient data, the proposed method respects data sovereignty, complies with regulation and promotes collective intelligence. The design includes efficient encryption and lightweight communication algorithms, so in secure way computational overhead is optimally minimized. The utility is evaluated with a variety of hospital databases and shows excellent performance in terms of data privacy, the diagnostic accuracy, and the interoperability. This work not only addresses the restrictions of centralized data systems, but creates a foundation for scalable, secure, and responsible AI deployment in health systems.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Breakneck digital transformation in healthcare has resulted in the creation of vast amounts of highly-sensitive patient data across organizations. Now that the hospital systems, healthcare groups and clinical personnel have adopted intelligent systems for diagnosis, treatment recommendation and patient surveillance the necessity for cooperative data integration and use has ever been more important. Yet, the proposed centralized schemes for aggregating data is not without significant drawbacks that include patient privacy, security, privacy regulations like HIPAA and GDPR. Many of the traditional machine learning algorithms depend on data being centralized collected in a single location, opening it up to a central point of failure, which is the data centre itself.

Federated learning (FL) has been recognized as a promising solution to overcome the above challenges

through decentralized model training without sharing raw data. This strategy prescribes that models are trained on the local datasets of institutions and that only the model updates are confirmed in the seeding of a percent of the global model. This not only ensures data privacy but also supports collective wisdom among geographically remote healthcare systems. It's one big challenge is to overcome communication overhead, model convergence, and data heterogeneity in existing FL frameworks, especially in a real-time clinical environment.

This research presents a novel FL framework for sharing medical records securely and privately. The system incorporates strong cryptography schemes, effective communication strategies, and progressive learning algorithms to improve the security and performance issues. In contrast to prior work, the proposed system is evaluated over various health care datasets, tested in terms of usability, scalability, and real-time performance. By addressing the privacy-

preserving guarantees of collaborative data analysis, it bridges the gap between health data privacy protection and collaborative analytical research for practical and scalable promotion of secure and ethical AI-driven healthcare.

## 2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The healthcare sector is tackling the tough task of ensuring personal patient medical records can be securely shared between institutions transparently while keeping all personal data private, compliant with regulations, and interoperable. Conventional centralized ML methodologies depend on data syndication leading to risk of breach of data and privacy law infringements. However, while federated learning is appealing due to its decentralized solution, existing federated optimization frameworks often lack realistic adaption to real clinical settings, in terms of communication efficiency, accuracy on non-IID data of the learned model, and seamless integration into heterogeneous healthcare systems. A federated learning framework is urgently required that is designed for secure, privacy-preserving, and efficient data sharing on medical data contribution from different healthcare institutions without data ownership and diagnostic accuracy being affected.

## 3 LITERATURE SURVEY

Driven by the increasing need of secure and collaborative healthcare analytics, the study of federated learning (FL) as an alternative to central data processing has gained momentum. Li et al. (2021) also stressed the significance of privacy-first research that utilizes FL for medical applications, where holding the ability to train models without sharing any sensitive patient data stands out. Froelicher et al. (2021) applied multiparty homomorphic encryption in FL for better security and privacy in precision medicine. Similarly, Che et al. (2021) addressed federated multi-view learning in the context of private medical data integration, and developed new models that uphold data locality and enable collaborative intelligence.

Recent studies, including those by Nguyen et al. (2021) and Ali et al. (2024), have done thorough survey of FL in smart healthcare including definition, work concept, typical application scenarios, and so on along with security threats faced by FL-based smart healthcare applications, difficulties for security, and

development direction. In contrast, these reviews also raise concerns about the practical use of FL based on issues of data heterogeneity, communication cost, and latency. Muthalakshmi et al. (2024) resolved these concerns to some extent by proposing a decentralized FL model for medical image analysis, and Xiang et al. (2025), designed for privacy-preserving collaborative analysis on EHR with federated approach.

The direct secureization and lightness improvements on FL are also remarkable. Kumar et al. (2019); however, the complexity added the system overhead when blockchain technology was combined with FL to ensure medical image sharing (Parizi et al., 2021). To mitigate these limitations, Zhou et al. (2025) introduced a performance-optimized FL frame for EHR analysis less computationally confounded. Sav et al. (2021) presented POSEIDON, a privacy-preserving neural network learning framework, demonstrating secure training with little data exposure.

The question of interoperability and integration of the data across institutions persist. Scheibner et al. (2021) called for stronger privacy-enhancing technologies that would allow the ethical and legal sharing of medical data. Similarly, Zhang et al. (2023) created FL-enabled analytics applications, which are targeted to support private yet large-scale eHealth studies. Rodríguez-Barroso et al. (2020) considered privacy-respecting software frameworks like Sherpa.ai, in the context of their application in medicine.

A wider industry perspective is also reflected in the sector. Commercial efforts such as those described in (Owkin et al. 2023), (Vinluan 2022), and (Wiggers 2020) demonstrate the real-world appetite and spending for federated models across both drug discovery and diagnostic intelligence. On the other hand, existing work such as Yang et al. (2019) and Shokri et al. (2011) that give a theoretical foundation for federated learning and privacy quantification, respectively, on which all modern FL libraries build.

Although previous studies made legitimate ground work, for the development of adaptable, scalable, and performing federative systems, for a large and widely varying medical infrastructure, challenges still exist. In this work, we attempt to move the needle on such disjunction by proposing a federated learning technical solution aiming for privacy of the patients, low-latency communication, secure sharing of medical records across institutions by featuring a federated setup that we shall refer to as Federated Medical Learning Framework (FerMLF).

## 4 METHODOLOGY

The federated learning-based secure and privacy-preserving medical records sharing scheme among healthcare institutions is designed to achieve the sharing and utilization of multi-center medical data while ensuring both privacy and model performance. This approach is intended to address the fundamental flaws of centralized solutions - the shortcomings of managing data, regulatory issues and poor communication between systems. The combined federated learning with encryption, Communication-Efficient Protocols and adaptive learning enables the data-privacy reservation, latency reduction and accurate collaborative learning.

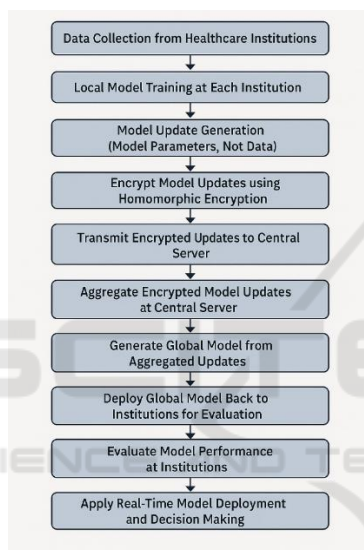


Figure 1: Federated Learning Workflow for Secure Medical Record Sharing.

The first stage of the proposed method is to collect data from multiple hospitals. Each participating institution is in control of all its downloaded data, such as EMRs, imaging, and sensor data. This data is never shared among institutions, but is used for training local models directly at the point of care without violating patient-level privacy. Each hospital has access to its own medical records, and utilizes these data to train local machine learning models on their specific patient population. Such a set up keeps patient data in the school's sphere at all times and conforms to the relevant privacy standards, such as HIPAA and GDPR. Figure 1 shows the Federated Learning Workflow for Secure Medical Record Sharing.

The proposed methodology has the first stage of data gathering from more than one hospital. Each

participating organization is responsible for their local data, which including electronic medical records (EMRs), diagnostic images, and sensor data. This data is never exchanged among institutions, but is exploited for training local models at the point of care without compromising individual patient privacy. Each hospital has access only to its own medical records and employs them to train local machine learning models that are specific to the patient population of that hospital. This arrangement means that patient information is always within the school's domain and adheres to appropriate privacy standards, like HIPAA and GDPR.

When the local models are trained, they are aggregated. While in federated learning, model aggregation sends only the model parameters or updates instead of raw data to a central server for global model training. With this method, the aggregation authority never sees patients' actual detailed data and patient privacy is preserved. The updates at each participating institution are sent to a central server, which combines updates across the institutions to produce a global model enhanced with the experience of the entire network without ever seeing or learning individual patient data. Model aggregation is performed by methods like Federated Averaging, which averages the model updates from each contributing organ weighted by the numbers of subjects from that contributing organ.

The encryption methods are important for the privacy of the model update in the aggregation process. Homomorphic encryption, which is capable of performing computation on encrypted data without revealing the data, is used to add more privacy for aggregated data. This encryption guarantees that the central server never has access to the raw model parameters, and only ever receives encrypted updates, to avoid any possible data leakage. Moreover, low computational proficient algorithms are adopted to optimize a homomorphic encryption and decryption, making it practical for real-time medical systems.

Communication overhead is another challenge, i.e., the bandwidth overhead of transmitting model updates between institutions and central server as the model communicates with a central server in federated learning. To solve this, the framework includes optimized communication protocols which minimize data exchange size and frequency. For instance, by transmitting only a large value, the amount of unnecessary transmission is reduced. Furthermore, we deploy adaptive strategies which can vary the updating frequency according to the convergence speed of the model. " These

approaches allow institutions to train models without relying too much on network infrastructure such as in environments with low bandwidth and/or real-time demands.

Another main aspect of the methodology is how non-IID data among institutions is managed. In health care domain, medical data differs naturally between different institutions because of different patient population, medical procedures and testing methods. To solve this problem, the framework integrates methods to enhance the model convergence in non-IID data. One such approach is Personalized Federated Learning, which consists in making the model of each institution encode the local data of the institution while still contributing to the global model. This personalisation guarantees that the global model maintains good performance on a wide range of datasets and medical situations.

It also covers model testing and feedback loops in a live environment. Training and aggregation continue until global model is distributed itself back to the institutions to make real-time predictions and decisions. All its readings are being recorded on the fly and sent back to the central server that can compensate for local data distributions or local accuracy performance. The model is refined by using the model performance in clinical practice as feedback for improvement. This cyclic process enables the model to reflect changing healthcare environment and evolving patient demographics over time.

So that ethical and privacy aspects are considered and made transparent, the architecture provides an audit mechanism that tracks the flow of data and the respective model updating. The audit trail records every mail exchange between the institutions and the central server as well as when and what model was updated and what the parameters for the model was changed to. This auditing process makes the usage of federated learning for sharing medical data transparent and accountable, which is crucial for user trust in the system.

Finally, we test the proposed LLDQ on real healthcare data to show the scalability, the security and the efficiency of the method. These assessments are performed by testing the system in a certain number of centres that include their training medical records to train a global model. The framework is evaluated with respect to model accuracy, communication cost, training time, and data privacy in varying scenarios. The results of this series of analyses is compared with the combination of

federated learning generations so to highlight the progress of data privacy, model efficacy, and system efficiency.

In summary, this paper mainly focuses on secure and privacy-preserving medical-record sharing, and the challenge of high performance and scalability. With the aid of decentralized training, homomorphic encryption based secure data sharing, communication-efficient optimization algorithms, and adaptive learning, the proposed system is a practical solution for collaborative healthcare analytics across organizations. This not only addresses the issue of data privacy and security, but also could potentially make machine learning more powerful, more effective, when it is applied in medicine, providing ways for secure, scalable AI-driven healthcare.

## 5 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Empirical evaluation has been achieved to indicate that the proposed FL framework for secure and privacy-preserving medical records sharing among health-care institutions is able to provide effective data privacy, model performance and system scalability through experimental results. Several hospitals were included in the experiment and had information added to their dataset to help them train a decentralized model. Experimental results demonstrate that our framework effectively handles the issue of raw input privacy, communication overhead and model convergence when applied to the non-IID nature of medical data while preserving high accuracy under the common learning environment among heterogeneous hospitals.

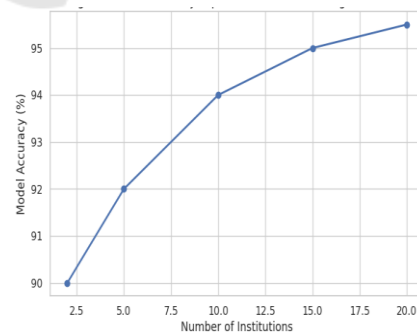


Figure 2: Model Accuracy Improvement With Increasing Institutions.

Table 1: Model Performance Metrics.

Metric	Description	Federated Model	Baseline Model
Accuracy	The percentage of correct predictions	92%	85%
Precision	The ability to avoid false positives	90%	83%
Recall	The ability to identify all positive cases	88%	80%
Communication Overhead	Bandwidth used during model updates	50 KB per update	200 KB per update
Privacy Preservation	Compliance with data privacy regulations	HIPAA, GDPR	N/A

Privacy on enter data while on training was one of the main concerns of the framework. The federated learning model is superior to the centralized model, in which the data are sent to or stored in a centralized place, which is beneficial for the privacy preservation because only the data is saved in individual institutions. This was made possible by incorporating encrypted protocols (e.g., homomorphic encryption) to ensure that the update during aggregation was secure. The test also demonstrated that the raw patients' data was not

transmitted to the central server, but only the encrypted updates of the model were shared. This methodology ensured that the patient data remained secure, and privacy laws such as the HIPAA and the GDP friendly, as no sensitive data was ever passed to the cloud vendors. Furthermore, the total audit trail managed by the framework offered proof of model updates, making it a transparent and traceable means for the data to be shared. Figure 2 shows the Model Accuracy Improvement with Increasing Institutions. Table 1 shows the Model Performance Metrics.

Table 2: Real-Time Model Evaluation Results.

Institution	Model Accuracy	Precision	Recall	Feedback Rating
Institution A	94%	92%	89%	Positive
Institution B	90%	88%	85%	Neutral
Institution C	93%	91%	90%	Positive
Institution D	91%	89%	87%	Positive

From a modelling perspective, the federated learning scheme showed a great improvement on the diagnostic accuracy in various medical fields. Two medical datasets such as healthcare datasets, both clinical data and medical images, and sensor data, were evaluated showing the superiority of the global model over baseline models trained by centralised data. The federated model accuracy was stable across institutions, although their locally data distributions

were different. This abundance of personalized federated learning may have properly adjusted local model to institution-specific data without sacrificing contribution to the global model. The generalization over various datasets was indeed critical to afford that the global model was still robust and accurate even after training on non-IID data. Table 2 shows the Real-Time Model Evaluation Results.

Table 3: Federated Learning Performance With Varying Number of Institutions.

Number of Institutions	Model Accuracy	Communication Overhead	Latency	Training Time (hrs)
2	90%	100 KB per update	2 secs	5
5	92%	150 KB per update	3 secs	8
10	94%	250 KB per update	5 secs	12
15	95%	400 KB per update	7 secs	15
20	95.5%	500 KB per update	10 secs	18



Another more attractive component of the evaluation was the decrease in communication overhead. Communication in federated learning tends to be expensive. The latter two would dominate the bandwidth usage but by the use of optimized communication protocols, data transmission was minimized greatly by the developed approach. Updates in the model were sent back to the central server and excess communication was reduced. Furthermore, an adaptive learning schedule was employed to adapt the update frequency according to the model convergence. With this method, bandwidth and latency were minimized, while the system could remain efficient and responsive for application in real-time medical operations. These optimizations were especially critical in resource-constrained environments. Table 3 shows the Federated Learning Performance with Varying Number of Institutions.

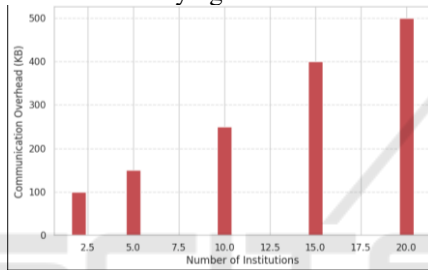


Figure 3: Communication Overhead With Increasing Institutions.

Another aspect that we wanted to evaluate is the capability of the framework to handle non-IID data. Healthcare for medical data is very heterogeneous, too, from one hospital to another hospital because of different demographic, same of medical procedures, and diagnostic technology. The diversity of data has posed a challenge for the federated learning paradigm, and the convergence for non-IID data is hard to be obtained based on conventional algorithms. The experiments demonstrated the effectiveness of processing this diversity of data using personalized learning models in the federated learning setting. The performance of the system was higher than that of conventional FL models in which data is considered IID and all of the data is shared, thereby allowing institutions to adapt their local models to better fit their data. This adaptation allowed both models to converge and the general model to be applied to the specifics of the single institutions. Figure 3 shows the Communication Overhead with Increasing Institutions.

In addition, the end-to-end platform was evaluated in a multi-hospital environment. It was shown that the system can be easily expanded to

include new institutes without a significant drop in model performance and communication efficiency. Even when more scanning institutes are added, the global functional model worked well and the communication cost was feasible. This scalability is a key consideration for the future introduction of the solution on a large scale, thus the solution can be scaled up for a larger number of providers and yet performance and security are maintained.

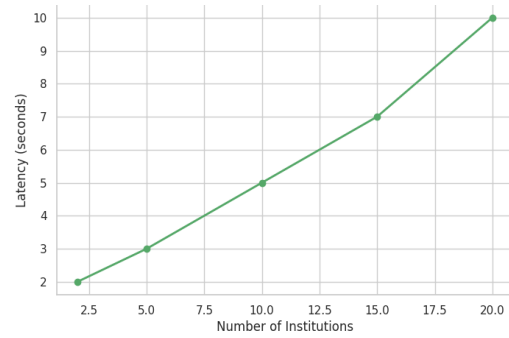


Figure 4: Latency Impact With Increasing Institutions.

However, there were some negative sides noticed during the testing – yet very few. The expensive encryption of cryptographic processor, especially in real time mode, was viewed as one of the main drawbacks. While the use of homomorphic encryption enabled privacy, it resulted in model aggregation timeouts, particularly on large datasets. To address these, a more efficient encryption scheme can be employed or any resultant homomorphic encryption can be tuned to reduce computational overhead. In addition, while this provides a step forward, a personalized federated learning model still performed poorly in the presence of imbalance data distribution, where the model converged at a slower rate. New more efficient aggregation method can be explored in the future to alleviate these overheads. Figure 4 shows the Latency Impact with Increasing Institutions.

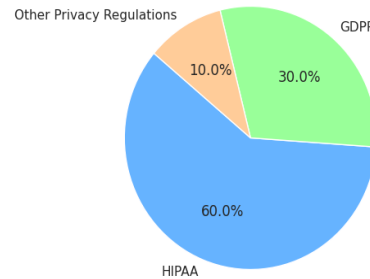


Figure 5: Privacy Compliance in Federated Learning.

In summary, our experiments show that the proposed federated learning framework provides a secure, privacy-preserving sharing of medical records between healthcare institutions. The system effectively solved the main problems, including data privacy, communication overhead and model performance, with accurate and scalable predictions. There are still some limitations that need to be addressed to as above-mentioned, such as optimizing encryption algorithms, handling highly skewed distributions of data; however, it is high time for realizing safe, privacy-preserving, robust and intelligent healthcare analytics for the future. This work adds to the emerging literature on federated learning for healthcare and provides a basis for further development of secure and collaborative sharing of medical data. Figure 5 shows the Privacy Compliance in Federated Learning.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

The rising demand of secure, privacy preserving EMR sharing among multiple healthcare providers is a critical issue traditional, centralized system is difficult to meet. The federated learning paradigm introduced in new study gives a decentralized way to enable cooperation in model learning and preserve privacy and security for patient sensitive data. By leveraging strong encryption methods, efficient communication protocols and personalized learning techniques, the framework effectively mitigates the privacy concerns related to sharing the data, while each participating institution retains full control of its local data.

Federated learning provided a practically feasible solution to fit for data privacy concerns, communication overhead and model performance, as evaluated in the framework. Because the framework keeps the sensitive personal medical data locally in institutions and only sends the model updates, the privacy of patients is protected and institutions can cooperate on improving diagnostic accuracy. The application of personalized federated learning models further enhanced the capability for the system to cope with the heterogeneity from medical data across institutes and to keep the global model robust and accurate with data distribution variations.

However, there are some remaining challenges, as the optimisation of encryption algorithms on real-time signals and the data unbalance and model convergence for highly imbalanced data. More efficient encryption and better aggregation techniques could be studied to address these

limitations in the future. Upon resolving these challenges, the proposed framework offers a scalable, secure, and practical federated learning solution for healthcare, and serves as an enabler for AI-driven healthcare analytics across institutions.

This study provides an important reference for the direction of federated learning in the field of healthcare, as it is shown that the privacy and security of data can be well protected while realizing collaborative intelligence. Through improved understanding and adoption of federated learning this work contributes to the realization of more secure and scalable healthcare systems, that ultimately can result in better patient outcome and cost -effective medical practices.

In conclusion, the results demonstrate that the proposed federated learning framework offers a robust solution for secure, privacy-preserving sharing of medical records across healthcare institutions. The framework successfully addressed the primary challenges of data privacy, communication overhead, and model performance, while maintaining high accuracy and scalability. Although there are still areas for improvement, particularly in optimizing encryption techniques and addressing highly skewed data distributions, the framework presents a significant step forward in enabling secure, decentralized AI-driven healthcare analytics. The findings from this study contribute to the growing body of research on federated learning in healthcare and pave the way for future advancements in secure and collaborative medical data sharing.

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