MITRE’s Healthcare Anti-Fraud Academic Competition

Seeking Student Innovation to Combat Healthcare Fraud

The Healthcare Anti-Fraud Academic Competition seeks to discover talented individuals with innovative solutions to assist government and private healthcare payers reduce dollars lost to health care fraud. MITRE is seeking inquisitive students at U.S.-based colleges and universities to team together to develop innovative approaches for ferreting out healthcare fraud, using a dataset and tools provided by MITRE. This challenge is designed to enable students to understand and attack this problem.

• Competitor submissions will be scored by a panel of experts, with the winning team(s) invited to present their approach to government and industry experts at MITRE’s offices in McLean.

Scores will be based on a mix of outlier and scheme detection, and innovative algorithm development coupled with a written presentation. Score tie breakers will be determined based on time of submission.

Why You Should Join the Challenge

• Change the world. Healthcare fraud impacts every U.S. citizen individually and is a massive drain on the national economy.

• Gain experience. Future employers want to see how you’re able to apply your academic training in the real world. Participating in this challenge is a resume enhancer and provides you something tangible to discuss during interviews—and it is designed so that anyone can participate!

• Develop intellectual property. Your idea and design are yours to keep. MITRE will not claim any rights to your intellectual property but will provide guidance on how you can protect it if your university needs assistance.

• Make connections. Submissions will be scored by a panel of experts from industry and government, and the winning team(s) will attend a leading healthcare fraud conference to present their approach. Participating highlights you and your capabilities with this community’s thought leaders, opening doors for future interactions.
Get Ready for Launch

**September:** Registration site opens. We will ask for the team name, faculty sponsor, contact information, and some other information to begin the registration process. Teams will be required to sign an agreement, which can be provided ahead of registration.

Resources and level-setting webinars will be offered to assist teams in understanding health care codes and claims.

**November:** The Challenge opens. Teams will have full access to the competition data to perform outlier and scheme detection in medical and pharmacy data. MITRE will provide a series of example analytics based on common fraud scenarios for you to check your work as you develop algorithms.

Each Thursday in November, MITRE will host a webinar for teams, inviting experts from law enforcement, private industry and nonprofits to discuss aspects of health care fraud detection and investigation.

**December:** Competition closes. Your goal is to use your analytics to develop an Investigation Recommendation Plan in the form of a presentation, as well as to submit the algorithms used to develop the recommendation. Your plans should:

- **Share your hypotheses:** What fraud schemes, issues of concern, or provider types were prioritized in your analytics and why?
- **Share your decision-making process:** What influenced your decision to include certain features in your recommendations? Examples could be: amount of financial exposure, background research, known fraud, waste, and abuse (FWA) issues, media reports, or a combination of factors.
- **Share your analytics process:** The written presentations and submitted algorithms will be judged on technical competence, effective use of data to provide outcomes, creativity and innovation in detection approach, strength of the algorithms developed, use of tools, and the value of the information and insights obtained from the data. The top three scoring teams will be asked to present their plans to a panel of expert judges to be awarded the top prize.

**February:** The winner(s) are announced.

**March:** The top three teams will be invited to MITRE/McLean to network with industry and government leaders and present their solutions.

For more information and to register a team visit: [https://www.mitre.org/healthcare-academic-competition](https://www.mitre.org/healthcare-academic-competition)