Archives available at journals.mriindia.com

International Journal of Electrical, Electronics and Computer Systems

ISSN: 2347-2820

Volume 14 Issue 02, 2025

A Comprehensive Review of Resource-Constrained Encryption Design with Hospital Information Systems: Security Models, Optimization Techniques, and Emerging Computing Applications

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Peer Review Information

Submission: 08 Sept 2025

Revision: 22 Sept 2025

Acceptance: 16 Oct 2025

Keywords

Resource-constrained encryption, hospital information systems, lightweight cryptography, IoT healthcare security, homomorphic encryption, post-quantum cryptography.

Abstract

The rapid digital transformation of hospital information systems (HIS) has significantly improved healthcare delivery by enabling real-time patient monitoring, electronic health record (EHR) management, and telemedicine services. However, it has also introduced critical security challenges, particularly in resource-constrained environments involving IoT-based medical sensors, wearable devices, and embedded systems. These devices require efficient encryption mechanisms that ensure data confidentiality without excessive computational overhead. Traditional cryptographic methods, although secure, often fail to meet these requirements due to high energy consumption and processing demands. This paper provides a comprehensive review of resource-constrained encryption design in HIS, focusing on security models, optimization techniques, and emerging computing applications. It examines recent research on lightweight cryptography, homomorphic encryption, and quantum-resistant frameworks tailored for healthcare systems. The study highlights key trade-offs between security strength, efficiency, and energy usage, and explores integration with technologies such as artificial intelligence, edge computing, and blockchain. While lightweight and hybrid encryption models enhance performance, challenges remain in achieving scalable, secure, and user-friendly solutions, indicating important directions for future research.

Introduction

The healthcare industry has undergone a profound transformation with the integration of digital technologies, leading to the widespread adoption of hospital information systems (HIS), electronic health records (EHRs), telemedicine platforms, and Internet of Medical Things (IoMT) devices. These technologies have significantly improved patient care, operational efficiency, and data accessibility. However, the increasing reliance on digital infrastructure has also exposed healthcare systems to a wide range of cybersecurity threats, including data breaches, ransomware attacks, and unauthorized access to sensitive patient information. Healthcare data is particularly valuable due to its sensitive nature, making it a prime target for cybercriminals.

One of the primary challenges in securing hospital information systems is the presence of resource-constrained devices. IoMT devices, wearable sensors, and embedded medical systems often operate with limited computational power, memory, and energy resources. Traditional encryption algorithms such as RSA and AES, while highly secure, are computationally intensive and may not be

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suitable for such environments . This limitation has led to the emergence of lightweight cryptographic techniques specifically designed to balance security and efficiency in constrained environments.

Lightweight cryptography (LWC) has become a key area of research in healthcare security. These algorithms are designed to provide adequate security while minimizing computational overhead, making them suitable for devices with limited resources. For instance, algorithms such as PRESENT, SIMON, and PRINCE have been developed to achieve faster execution times and reduced energy consumption compared to traditional cryptographic methods. In healthcare systems, where real-time data processing is critical, the use of lightweight encryption ensures that security does not compromise system performance.

Another important development in healthcare encryption is the adoption of homomorphic encryption (HE). Unlike traditional encryption methods, HE allows computations to be performed directly on encrypted data without requiring decryption. This capability is particularly useful in healthcare applications such as medical data analysis, machine learning, and secure data sharing. Homomorphic encryption enables secure processing of sensitive patient data while preserving privacy, making it a promising solution for hospital information systems . However, HE is computationally expensive, which poses challenges for resource-constrained environments.

The rise of edge computing has further influenced the design of encryption mechanisms in healthcare systems. Edge computing enables data processing closer to the source, reducing latency and improving response times. In hospital environments, edge devices can process patient data locally, minimizing the need for data transmission to centralized servers. This approach not only improves performance but also enhances data security by reducing exposure to network-based attacks. However, implementing encryption at the edge requires efficient algorithms that can operate within limited resource constraints.

In addition to lightweight and homomorphic encryption, post-quantum cryptography has emerged as a critical area of research. With the advancement of quantum computing, traditional cryptographic algorithms may become vulnerable to quantum attacks. Researchers are exploring quantum-resistant encryption techniques, such as lattice-based cryptography, to ensure long-term security in healthcare systems. These approaches aim to provide strong security guarantees while maintaining efficiency in resource-constrained environments.

Medical image encryption is another significant aspect of healthcare security. Medical images, such as X-rays, MRIs, and CT scans, contain highly sensitive information and are frequently transmitted across networks for diagnosis and analysis. Ensuring the confidentiality and integrity of these images is essential. Advanced encryption techniques, including chaotic systems and deep learning-based methods, have been proposed to enhance the security of medical image transmission.

Despite these advancements, several challenges remain in the design and implementation of encryption mechanisms for hospital information systems. One of the key challenges is achieving a balance between security and performance. While stronger encryption provides better security, it often comes at the cost of increased computational overhead and energy consumption. This trade-off is particularly critical in resource-constrained environments, where system performance and battery life are limited.

Another challenge is interoperability and integration with existing healthcare systems. Hospital information systems often consist of heterogeneous components, including legacy systems, modern cloud-based platforms, and IoT devices. Ensuring seamless integration of encryption mechanisms across these components is a complex task. Additionally, compliance with regulatory standards such as HIPAA and GDPR adds another layer of complexity to the design of secure healthcare systems.

This paper aims to provide a comprehensive review of resource-constrained encryption design in hospital information systems. The study focuses on three main aspects: security models, optimization techniques, and emerging computing applications. By analyzing recent research from 2018 to 2023, the paper identifies key trends, evaluates existing solutions, and highlights future research directions. The findings of this review are expected to guide researchers and practitioners in developing efficient and secure encryption mechanisms for modern healthcare systems.

Literature Review

Newaz et al. (2020) conducted a comprehensive survey of security and privacy challenges in modern healthcare systems. The study identified critical vulnerabilities in IoMT devices, EHR systems, and wireless medical networks. It emphasized the need for efficient encryption mechanisms to mitigate risks such as data

breaches and unauthorized access. The authors highlighted that traditional encryption techniques are often unsuitable for resource-constrained healthcare environments, reinforcing the importance of lightweight encryption solutions.

Chinbat et al. analyzed lightweight cryptographic algorithms for IoT-based healthcare systems. The study evaluated multiple algorithms, including AES, PRESENT, and SIMON, based on performance metrics such as memory usage, execution time, and energy efficiency. The results demonstrated that lightweight cryptography is essential for securing resource-constrained devices while maintaining system performance.

Rasheed et al. proposed efficient lightweight encryption models tailored for IoT-based healthcare systems. The study introduced novel cryptographic techniques that reduce computational complexity while maintaining strong security. The proposed methods demonstrated high resistance to attacks and low resource consumption, making them suitable for hospital environments with constrained devices.

Lee et al. provided a comprehensive survey of homomorphic encryption in healthcare systems. The study explored different types of HE, including partially and fully homomorphic encryption, and their applications in secure data processing. The findings highlight the potential of HE in enabling privacy-preserving analytics in hospital systems, despite its computational challenges.

Almalawi et al. examined security management strategies in modern healthcare systems, focusing on encryption, access control, and data governance. The study emphasized the importance of integrating encryption mechanisms with broader security frameworks, including AI-based threat detection and compliance standards. It also highlighted the need for scalable and efficient encryption solutions in hospital information systems.

Gope and Hwang (2019) proposed a lightweight authentication and encryption protocol specifically designed for IoT-enabled healthcare systems. The protocol integrates symmetric cryptographic techniques with reduced communication overhead to ensure secure data transmission. The study demonstrated improved resistance against replay and impersonation attacks while maintaining low computational complexity. This work is highly relevant to resource-constrained encryption as it balances security with efficiency in medical devices.

Wazid et al. (2019) developed a lightweight cryptographic framework for securing communication between wearable medical devices and hospital servers. The proposed model utilizes hash functions and minimal encryption rounds to reduce processing time and energy consumption. Experimental results showed that the framework significantly improves performance compared to traditional encryption methods, making it suitable for hospital information systems with constrained resources.

Sharma et al. (2020) investigated encryption techniques for securing medical images in healthcare systems. The study introduced chaos-based encryption algorithms that provide high security while maintaining low computational overhead. The authors highlighted the importance of fast encryption and decryption processes for real-time medical applications. This research contributes to resource-constrained encryption by addressing the need for efficient protection of large healthcare datasets.

Zhang et al. (2021) explored the use of edge computing for secure data processing in hospital environments. The study proposed an encryption model that offloads computational tasks to edge nodes, reducing the burden on resource-constrained devices. By combining lightweight encryption with edge computing, the system achieves low latency and improved security. This approach aligns with optimization techniques for resource-constrained environments.

Alsharif et al. (2022) examined the integration of blockchain technology with healthcare systems to enhance data security and integrity. The study proposed encryption mechanisms combined with decentralized storage to protect patient records. Although blockchain introduces additional computational overhead, the use of optimized cryptographic techniques ensures feasibility in constrained environments. This work highlights the role of hybrid encryption models in modern hospital information systems.

Kumar et al. (2019) proposed a secure encryption framework for cloud-based healthcare systems, focusing on protecting electronic health records (EHRs). The study utilized a hybrid encryption approach combining symmetric and asymmetric cryptography to balance security and efficiency. By encrypting sensitive data before cloud storage and optimizing key management, the framework ensures confidentiality while reducing computational overhead, making it suitable for semi resource-constrained hospital systems.

Abbas et al. (2020) explored the use of fog computing to enhance data security in healthcare environments. The study introduced encryption mechanisms at the fog layer to reduce latency and improve response times. By processing encrypted data closer to the source, the

framework minimizes the load on central servers and improves efficiency. This approach is highly relevant to resource-constrained encryption, as it distributes computational tasks across multiple nodes.

Kaur and Kaur (2021) investigated encryption techniques for wearable healthcare devices. The study proposed a lightweight encryption algorithm optimized for low power consumption and minimal memory usage. Experimental results showed that the algorithm provides adequate security while significantly reducing energy consumption. This makes it suitable for continuous monitoring devices in hospital environments.

Islam et al. (2022) presented a privacy-preserving framework for healthcare data sharing using encryption and access control mechanisms. The study emphasized secure data transmission and storage while maintaining efficiency. The proposed system integrates lightweight encryption with secure key distribution, ensuring scalability in hospital information systems.

Verma et al. (2023) explored the integration of artificial intelligence with encryption techniques in healthcare systems. The study proposed an adaptive encryption model that adjusts encryption strength based on data sensitivity and system load. This dynamic approach reduces unnecessary computational overhead while maintaining strong security, aligning with the principles of resource-constrained encryption design.

Singh et al. (2019) evaluated various lightweight cryptographic algorithms suitable for healthcare environments. The study compared algorithms such as PRESENT, LED, and SIMON in terms of execution time, memory usage, and energy efficiency. The results indicated that lightweight block ciphers are highly effective for securing resource-constrained medical devices, providing adequate security with minimal computational overhead.

Das et al. (2020) proposed a secure encryption protocol tailored for the Internet of Medical Things (IoMT). The protocol incorporates mutual authentication and lightweight encryption techniques to ensure secure communication between devices and hospital servers. The study demonstrated strong resistance to common attacks while maintaining low latency, making it suitable for high-performance healthcare systems.

Mehmood et al. (2021) focused on energy-efficient encryption schemes for wireless medical sensor networks. The study proposed an optimized encryption algorithm that reduces energy consumption while maintaining acceptable security levels. Simulation results showed improved battery life and reduced processing time, which are critical for continuous patient monitoring systems.

Gupta et al. (2022) explored hybrid encryption techniques combining symmetric and asymmetric cryptography for healthcare applications. The study highlighted the benefits of using symmetric encryption for data transmission and asymmetric encryption for key exchange. This approach improves security while reducing computational complexity, making it suitable for hospital information systems.

Raza et al. (2023) proposed a secure data transmission framework for healthcare IoT systems using lightweight encryption and efficient key management techniques. The study demonstrated improved scalability and reduced latency compared to traditional encryption methods. The proposed solution ensures secure communication while maintaining performance in resource-constrained environments.

Wang et al. (2019) investigated secure data storage mechanisms for hospital information systems using encryption techniques. The study proposed a combination of lightweight encryption and efficient key management strategies to ensure data confidentiality while minimizing computational overhead. The results showed improved performance in resource-constrained environments, particularly for large-scale healthcare databases.

Patel et al. (2020) analyzed optimization strategies for encryption in cloud-based healthcare systems. The study introduced techniques such as data partitioning and selective encryption to reduce computational load. By encrypting only sensitive portions of data, the system achieves a balance between security and efficiency, making it suitable for high-load hospital environments.

Sharma and Gupta (2021) focused on key management challenges in healthcare encryption systems. The study proposed a lightweight key distribution mechanism that reduces communication overhead and enhances scalability. Efficient key management is critical for maintaining security in resource-constrained environments, and this work contributes significantly to the field.

Lee et al. (2022) explored encryption techniques for secure medical data sharing across healthcare institutions. The study proposed a privacy-preserving framework using lightweight encryption and secure access control mechanisms. The approach ensures data confidentiality while enabling efficient data exchange, which is essential for collaborative healthcare systems.

Ahmed et al. (2023) investigated the use of blockchain technology combined with encryption for securing healthcare data. The study proposed a decentralized framework that ensures data integrity and confidentiality through cryptographic techniques. While blockchain introduces additional overhead, optimized encryption methods make it feasible for resource-constrained hospital systems.

Kaur et al. (2019) proposed a lightweight encryption scheme specifically for electronic health record (EHR) systems. The study focused on reducing encryption time and memory usage while maintaining strong security. The proposed model demonstrated efficient handling of large-scale patient data, making it suitable for hospital environments with constrained computational resources.

Brown and Taylor (2020) examined secure data transmission techniques in healthcare networks. The study introduced optimized encryption protocols that reduce latency and improve data throughput. By minimizing redundant encryption operations, the proposed approach enhances performance in high-load hospital systems.

Mehta et al. (2021) explored encryption challenges in smart healthcare systems, including IoT-enabled devices and real-time monitoring systems. The study proposed hybrid encryption techniques that balance security and efficiency. The results showed improved system performance and reduced computational overhead.

Oliveira et al. (2022) analyzed performance bottlenecks in encryption algorithms used in healthcare systems. The study proposed optimization techniques such as parallel processing and caching to improve execution speed. These techniques significantly enhance the feasibility of encryption in resource-constrained environments.

Khan et al. (2023) investigated post-quantum encryption techniques for securing healthcare data. The study focused on lattice-based cryptography and its application in hospital systems. Although computationally intensive, optimized implementations demonstrated acceptable performance, ensuring future-proof security for healthcare applications.

Comparative Table

No.	Author (Year)	Domain	Technique	Key Contribution	Relevance
1	Newaz (2020)	Healthcare	Survey	Security gaps	Need lightweight
2	Chinbat (2023)	IoT	LWC	Efficient crypto	Low overhead
3	Rasheed (2023)	IoMT	Lightweight	Efficient model	Fast
4	Lee (2023)	HE	Homomorphic	Secure processing	Privacy
5	Almalawi (2023)	HIS	Framework	Integrated security	Scalable
6	Gope (2019)	IoT	Lightweight	Secure comm	Efficient
7	Wazid (2019)	Wearables	Hash-based	Low power	Fast
8	Sharma (2020)	Images	Chaos crypto	Fast encryption	Real-time
9	Zhang (2021)	Edge	Edge encryption	Low latency	Optimized
10	Alsharif (2022)	Blockchain	Hybrid	Secure records	Distributed
11	Kumar (2019)	Cloud	Hybrid	Secure EHR	Balanced
12	Abbas (2020)	Fog	Distributed	Low delay	Efficient
13	Kaur (2021)	Wearables	Lightweight	Low energy	Efficient
14	Islam (2022)	Privacy	Encryption	Secure sharing	Scalable
15	Verma (2023)	AI	Adaptive	Dynamic encryption	Optimized
16	Singh (2019)	Crypto	LWC	Efficient	Fast
17	Das (2020)	IoMT	Protocol	Secure comm	Low latency
18	Mehmood (2021)	Sensors	Energy-efficient	Low power	Long life
19	Gupta (2022)	Hybrid	Combined	Secure + efficient	Balanced
20	Raza (2023)	IoT	Lightweight	Secure transfer	Scalable
21	Wang (2019)	Storage	Encryption	Secure DB	Efficient
22	Patel (2020)	Cloud	Selective	Reduced load	Optimized
23	Sharma (2021)	Key Mgmt	Lightweight	Efficient keys	Scalable

24	Lee (2022)	Sharing	Privacy	Secure exchange	Efficient
25	Ahmed (2023)	Blockchain	Crypto	Secure ledger	Distributed
26	Kaur (2019)	EHR	Lightweight	Fast processing	Efficient
27	Brown (2020)	Network	Optimized	Fast transfer	Low latency
28	Mehta (2021)	Smart HC	Hybrid	Efficient	Balanced
29	Oliveira (2022)	Optimization	Caching	Faster	Stable
30	Khan (2023)	Post-Quantum	Lattice	Future secure	Deterministic

Analysis

The analysis of the selected 30 studies reveals that resource-constrained encryption in hospital information systems is a rapidly evolving field driven by the need for secure yet efficient data protection mechanisms. A key trend identified across the literature is the widespread adoption of lightweight cryptographic algorithms. These algorithms are specifically designed to operate efficiently in environments with limited computational power, such as IoMT devices and wearable sensors. Studies consistently show that lightweight encryption significantly reduces processing time, memory usage, and energy consumption while maintaining acceptable security levels.

Another important observation is the increasing use of hybrid encryption models. These models combine the strengths of symmetric and asymmetric cryptography to achieve both efficiency and security. Symmetric encryption is typically used for data transmission due to its speed, while asymmetric encryption is employed for secure key exchange. This combination allows healthcare systems to achieve a balance between performance and security.

Edge and fog computing also play a significant role in optimizing encryption processes. By moving data processing closer to the source, these technologies reduce latency and improve system performance. Several studies highlight that edge-based encryption models are particularly effective in hospital environments where real-time data processing is critical.

Emerging technologies such as blockchain and artificial intelligence are further enhancing encryption mechanisms. Blockchain provides a decentralized framework for secure data storage and sharing, while AI enables adaptive encryption techniques that adjust based on system conditions. However, these technologies also introduce new challenges, including increased computational overhead and complexity.

Finally, the literature highlights the growing importance of post-quantum cryptography. As quantum computing advances, traditional encryption methods may become vulnerable, necessitating the development of quantum-resistant algorithms. While these algorithms are currently resource-intensive, ongoing research aims to optimize them for practical use in healthcare systems.

Discussion

Resource-constrained encryption design is a critical component of modern hospital information systems, particularly in the context of increasing digitalization and the proliferation of IoMT devices. The reviewed literature demonstrates that traditional encryption techniques are often inadequate for healthcare environments due to their high computational requirements. As a result, researchers have focused on developing lightweight and efficient encryption methods that can operate effectively within limited resource constraints.

One of the most significant advancements in this field is the development of lightweight cryptographic algorithms. These algorithms provide a practical solution for securing data in resource-constrained devices, such as wearable sensors and embedded medical systems. By reducing computational complexity and energy consumption, lightweight encryption ensures that security does not compromise system performance.

The integration of edge and fog computing with encryption mechanisms has also shown promising results. These approaches enable local data processing, reducing latency and improving response times. In hospital environments, where real-time data processing is essential, such optimizations are particularly valuable. However, implementing encryption at the edge requires careful consideration of resource limitations and security requirements.

Another important trend is the use of hybrid encryption models, which combine different cryptographic techniques to achieve optimal performance. These models leverage the strengths of both symmetric and asymmetric encryption, providing a balanced approach to security and efficiency. Additionally, the use of selective encryption techniques allows systems

to prioritize sensitive data, further reducing computational overhead.

Emerging technologies such as blockchain and artificial intelligence are also playing a significant role in advancing healthcare encryption. Blockchain provides a secure and transparent framework for data management, while AI enables adaptive encryption strategies. However, these technologies introduce new challenges, including increased complexity and potential scalability issues.

Despite these advancements, several challenges remain. Ensuring interoperability between different healthcare systems is a major concern, as hospital environments often consist of heterogeneous components. Additionally, compliance with regulatory standards adds complexity to the design of encryption mechanisms. Privacy concerns, particularly in the context of medical data, must also be addressed.

Overall, the literature indicates that resource-constrained encryption is a dynamic and evolving field. Continued research is needed to develop more efficient and scalable solutions that can meet the growing demands of modern healthcare systems.

Conclusion

The increasing reliance on digital technologies in healthcare has significantly transformed hospital information systems, enabling improved patient care, enhanced data accessibility, and efficient healthcare delivery. However, this transformation has also introduced critical security challenges, particularly in environments characterized by resource constraints. Devices such as IoMT sensors, wearable medical devices, and embedded systems often operate with limited computational power, memory, and energy resources, making the implementation of traditional encryption techniques impractical. In this context, resource-constrained encryption has emerged as a vital area of research and development.

This comprehensive review examined 30 studies published between 2018 and 2023, focusing on encryption techniques tailored for resource-constrained healthcare environments. The analysis highlights that lightweight cryptographic algorithms play a central role in addressing the challenges of securing hospital information systems. These algorithms are specifically designed to minimize computational overhead while maintaining adequate security, making them suitable for deployment in constrained devices. Techniques such as PRESENT, SIMON, and hash-based encryption have demonstrated significant improvements in performance compared to traditional cryptographic methods.

Another key finding of this review is the effectiveness of hybrid encryption models. By combining symmetric and asymmetric cryptography, these models achieve a balance between efficiency and security. Symmetric encryption ensures fast data processing, while asymmetric encryption provides secure key exchange. This combination is particularly useful in healthcare systems where both performance and security are critical.

The integration of emerging technologies, including edge computing, fog computing, blockchain, and artificial intelligence, has further enhanced encryption mechanisms in healthcare systems. Edge and fog computing enable localized data processing, reducing latency and improving system performance. Blockchain provides a decentralized framework for secure data management, while AI enables adaptive encryption strategies that respond to changing system conditions. These technologies represent the future of healthcare encryption, offering innovative solutions to existing challenges.

Despite these advancements, several challenges remain. Achieving a balance between security and performance continues to be a major concern. While stronger encryption provides better protection, it often increases computational overhead and energy consumption. This trade-off is particularly critical in resource-constrained environments. Additionally, ensuring interoperability between different healthcare systems and compliance with regulatory standards presents significant challenges.

The emergence of quantum computing poses another significant threat to existing encryption methods. Traditional cryptographic algorithms may become vulnerable to quantum attacks, necessitating the development of post-quantum encryption techniques. While current research in this area shows promise, further work is needed to optimize these algorithms for use in resource-constrained environments.

In conclusion, resource-constrained encryption is essential for securing modern hospital information systems. The findings of this review demonstrate that lightweight cryptography, hybrid encryption models, and emerging technologies provide effective solutions for addressing the challenges of healthcare security. Future research should focus on developing more efficient algorithms, improving interoperability, and ensuring compliance with regulatory standards. Additionally, the integration of post-quantum cryptography and

AI-driven security mechanisms will be critical for addressing future challenges.

Ultimately, the success of resource-constrained encryption in healthcare systems will depend on its ability to balance security, efficiency, and scalability. As healthcare systems continue to evolve, the importance of robust and efficient encryption mechanisms will only increase, making this an essential area of ongoing research and innovation.

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