



ASPEN TECH
POLICY HUB

PROJECT



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Mitigating Algorithmic Bias in Government Healthcare AI Procurement

Building transparency and fairness into the sourcing of healthcare
AI tools

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Procurement officials in government should build language into AI health technology contracts that mandate data transparency, privacy protection, and bias prevention. As digital tools become more common in medical decision-making, healthcare providers may risk exposing patient data or inadvertently using a tool that leads to racially biased outcomes. Using the procurement request for proposal (RFP) generator tool, government procurement officials can incorporate and customize best practices for health tech governance into their RFPs and contracts. In doing so, government agencies will more likely procure tools that build in transparency, fairness, and privacy by design.



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THE PROBLEM

Healthcare institutions are encountering new governance challenges as digital tools, algorithms, and data become instrumental to medical decisionmaking and patient care delivery. The range of algorithms used in healthcare is constantly expanding, encompassing diagnostic tools, risk stratification scoring, clinical note-taking automation, treatment recommendations, and resource allocation. If not governed properly, these tools risk exposing patients to suboptimal treatment outcomes, biased recommendations, and non-transparent decisions that lack logical and comprehensible explanations.

“ *These tools risk exposing patients to suboptimal treatment outcomes, biased recommendations, and non-transparent decisions that lack logical and comprehensible explanations.* ”

THE SOLUTION

The increasing adoption of algorithms within medical decision-making and healthcare resource allocation requires a new arsenal of tools and oversight frameworks from government procurement offices and healthcare providers. By using contracts to specify evaluation criteria and oversight mechanisms for healthcare AI tools, government bodies can solicit greater transparency and accountability from private-sector AI companies that produce algorithm-based products. The toolkit outlined in this project offers a guided workflow for building procurement contract language that stipulates transparency requirements, bias prevention, and privacy standards in the design of algorithm-based products procured through public funds.

For more information about this proposal, please see: (1) [The Healthcare AI Procurement Guide](#), which includes: (a) a [procurement RFP generator tool](#), (b) [design principles](#) that further explain the clauses included in the procurement language generator tool, and (c) an [AI model design checklist](#) for procurement officers to use once a vendor has been chosen; and (2) a [policy brief](#) for government procurement officers.

ABOUT THE HUB

The Aspen Tech Policy Hub is a Bay Area policy incubator, training a new generation of tech policy entrepreneurs. We take tech experts, teach them the policy process, and support them in creating outside-the-box solutions to society's problems.

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