

End the Patient Matching Name Game, Become a Millionaire

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The College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) has a proposition. Come up with a solution to the following scenario, become a millionaire:

“Consider the number of John Smiths living in the same town, sometimes even under the same roof. Now think about the number of John Smiths in a county, state or the nation. There are even many John Smiths or even John A. Smiths with the same birthday. What if John sometimes gives his name as Johnny Smith? Or perhaps his birth name is really Edward John Smith but he goes by John,” CHIME asks on its HeroX “National Patient ID Challenge” website. How do you select the right John Smith during a healthcare encounter?

This question currently doesn’t have an answer, and is the reason why seven out of every 100 medical records are mismatched, according to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT. Many healthcare providers and associations, including CHIME, are tired of the wasted man hours and patient safety implications of patient matching, and feel it is time to do something about it.

Therefore, CHIME says it will award \$1 million to the person or persons who can create a patient identity solution that ensures “100 percent accuracy of every patient’s health information to reduce preventable medical errors and eliminate unnecessary hospital costs/resources” as part of its National Patient ID Challenge.

“We’re doing it this way because we don’t think we have the time anymore,” said CHIME CEO Russell Branzell during a January webcast announcing the opening of the contest, according to [MedCity News](#). “We don’t believe this will fix all our woes... but we do think this is a cornerstone issue.”

CHIME is looking for a winning entry that accomplishes the following:

- Easily and quickly identifies patients
- Achieves 100 percent accuracy in patient identification
- Achieves adoption by the vast majority of patients, providers, insurers, and other stakeholders
- Protects patient privacy and patient identity
- Has the scale to handle all patients in the US

Think you have the answer? CHIME began accepting submissions on January 19 and will continue to accept proposals until April 8. For more information, visit <https://herox.com/PatientIDChallenge>.

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