

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USQHIN Achieves Trusted Network- Health Information Network (HIN) Accreditation from DirectTrust™

Accreditation ensures adherence to security, privacy, regulatory compliance and rights management, including compliance with new privacy regulatory requirements

WASHINGTON, D.C. – United States QHIN (USQHIN), an alternative nationwide health information network, focused on rationalizing interstate data exchange at national scale, announced today it has achieved EHNAC governed Trusted Network Accreditation-Health Information Network (TNAP-HIN) from DirectTrust™.

Through DirectTrust's comprehensive third-party review, USQHIN has successfully completed the accreditation process by providing evidence that meets DirectTrust's criteria in the following areas:

- Identification of data flows of confidential information such as Protected Health Information within the organization as well as with business partners outside of the organization;
- Verification that appropriate Business Associate Agreements are in place with all relevant entities;
- Review of HIPAA privacy policies and procedures;
- Review of HIPAA security safeguards in place (administrative, technical and physical);
- Review methods of secure transmission of data;
- Review of customer service metrics;
- Validation of accuracy of transaction exchange;
- Validation of system availability and capacity metrics;
- Validation of compliance with industry standards;
- Review of IT security best practices;
- Review of industry-specific best practices;
- Review of disaster recovery and business continuity processes;
- Review of workforce training; and
- Review of personnel qualifications.

Upon completion of the rigorous accreditation process, the organization demonstrates to its constituents, adherence to strict standards and participation in the comprehensive, objective evaluation of its business.

TNAP-HIN accreditation is for Health Information Network organizations, as defined by the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA), who wish to be acknowledged by the Recognized Coordinating Entity (RCE) as a Qualified Health Information Network (QHIN). TNAP-HIN accreditation does not designate an organization as accepted by the RCE as a QHIN. Approval from the



RCE and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) is still necessary and entirely separate from the TNAP-HIN accreditation process. The program also included information blocking and interoperability criteria as part of the accreditation process.

“Regulatory concerns continue to be at the forefront of the minds of healthcare leadership. We recognize the importance of a company’s decision to take the necessary steps for adhering to the latest standards in privacy, security and confidentiality, all while keeping stakeholders and customers informed,” said Lee Barrett, Commission Executive Director, DirectTrust. “Achieving this accreditation provides an additional level of confidence for QHINs, prospective QHINs and other organizations that are under competitive pressures to continually ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, business metrics and best practices. We commend USQHIN on attaining this important accreditation.”

USQHIN engages public and private stakeholders and advances emerging use cases in support of urgent public health needs and federal interoperability goals. USQHIN is part of the MiHIN Group, including Velatura Public Benefit Corporation, the Interoperability Institute and the Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services. The organizations offer a comprehensive interoperability strategy and a product and services portfolio that continues to transform healthcare and health information exchange in Michigan and across the nation.

“TNAP-HIN accreditation is not just a badge of honor, it is a crucial affirmation of USQHIN’s commitment to data integrity, security, and national interoperability,” said Dr. Tim Pletcher, DHA, Executive Director of MiHIN. “We are pleased to demonstrate to our customers the highest standards for data protection and information security by achieving TNAP-HIN accreditation from DirectTrust, especially as we embark on our work with the Patient Centered Data Home and using ADT data at a national level to advance interoperability.”

TNAP accreditation leverages existing industry-wide identity verification, authentication, and privacy/security frameworks and directly aligns with the development of the 21st Century Cures Act including the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA) and promotes interoperability, assuring the security and privacy of trusted networks, and the use of enabling technologies in the healthcare ecosystem.

About USQHIN

The United States QHIN (USQHIN) is an alternative nationwide health information network, focused on rationalizing interstate data exchange at national scale. USQHIN engages public and private stakeholders and advances emerging use cases in support of urgent public health needs and federal interoperability goals. USQHIN is part of the MiHIN Group, including Velatura Public Benefit Corporation, the Interoperability Institute and the Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services. The organizations offer a comprehensive interoperability strategy and a product and services portfolio that continues to transform healthcare and health information exchange in Michigan and across the nation. For more information, visit: <https://usqhin.org/>

About DirectTrust

DirectTrust™ is a non-profit, vendor-neutral alliance dedicated to instilling trust in the exchange of health data. The organization serves as a forum for a consensus-driven community focused on health communication, an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards development organization, an accreditation and certification body through EHNAC (the Electronic Healthcare Network Accreditation



Commission), and developer of trust frameworks and supportive services for secure information exchange like Direct Secure Messaging and trusted, compliant document submission.

The goal of DirectTrust is to develop, promote, and, as necessary, help enforce the rules and best practices necessary to maintain privacy, security, and trust for stakeholders across and beyond healthcare. In addition, DirectTrust is committed to fostering widespread public confidence in the interoperable exchange of health information while promoting quality service, innovation, cooperation, and open competition in healthcare. To learn more, visit: DirectTrust.org.

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