

Memorandum of Understanding Between DirectTrust.org and the Kantara Initiative

Recognizing that there are numerous initiatives evolving in the health care sector that require strong identity management to ensure adequate security and trust of health information transported over the Internet, DirectTrust.org and the Kantara Initiative seek a collaboration that will help to minimize the development of "silos" of non-standard and unrelated identity vetting process and documentation. Both organizations seek to help provide the common and basic elements needed to support a single health Internet/cyberspace identity to be broadly used by health care professionals as they obtain a variety of online credentials.

Some notable examples in the U.S. of health identity management include: the implementations of Direct being deployed around the country by regional, state, and local Health Information Exchanges (HIEs); the Drug Enforcement Agency's electronic prescribing of controlled substances (EPCS) rule; the efforts of DirectTrust and EHNAC to establish a Direct Trusted Agent Accreditation Program for HISPs, CAs, and RAs involved in Direct; Accountable Care Organization (ACO) pilots, and ONC's Meaningful Use Stage 2 EHR interoperability requirements, as well as their strong authentication requirements for Stage 3 Meaningful Use. There are and will be many others, and we are aware that we must include patients and consumers as participants in the near future.

Kantara Initiative has the mission to foster identity community harmonization, interoperability, innovation, and broad adoption through the development criteria for operational trust frameworks and deployment/usage best practices for privacy-respecting, secure access to trusted online services. The Kantara Identity Assurance Framework (IAF) provides many of the basic elements needed to support a trusted identity ecosystem that could enable a single identity to be used in these and numerous other health care scenarios. In addition to developing the IAF and other frameworks, Kantara Initiative is a Trust Framework Provider (TFP) working to gather requirements for trusted identity credentials in verticals and jurisdictions.

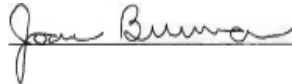
DirectTrust.org is a non-profit industry coalition that is providing security and trust policies and best practice recommendations in support of scalable growth of Directed health information exchange. The DirectTrust.org X.509 Certificate Policy aims to provide clarity, transparency, and choice in the levels of identity assurance relied upon for issuance of credentials used in Direct message exchanges, characteristics which are needed for scalable and federated trust to flourish within the Direct community. DirectTrust.org is jointly developing with EHNAC an Accreditation Program for HISPs, CAs, and RAs who act as Trusted Agents in the implementation and delivery of Direct exchange services, based in part upon the DirectTrust.org Certificate Policy.

Thus, it is natural that DirectTrust.org and the Kantara Initiative seek to collaborate in order to align each organization's efforts toward the common goal of interoperability of trusted identity credentials within the health care identity ecosystem to the extent possible, and with the recognition that the Federal government is providing governance, policy, and regulations as a framework within which we all must cooperate (e.g., the FICAM, FBCA, and NSTIC).

SIGNED



President and CEO
DirectTrust.org, Inc



Executive Director
Kantara Initiative