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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Association for Trusted Exchange Calls for Stakeholder Input on Patient Mediated Exchange

Respected national organization seeks public review of new NATE Blue Button for Consumers Trust Bundle

WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 20, 2014) – The [National Association for Trusted Exchange](#) (NATE) today called for broad public input on the trust framework developed for the new [NATE Blue Button for Consumers \(NBB4C\) Trust Bundle](#). The new trust bundle is the result of the next generation of NATE’s ongoing [Personal Health Record \(PHR\) Ignite Project](#) and incorporates lessons learned from NATE’s administration of the [Blue Button Consumer Trust Bundles](#).

NATE has long been committed to leading the nation in developing alternatives for organizations seeking to provide patient-mediated exchange through the use of Direct secure messaging protocols. Since its inception, NATE has created a strong set of operating principles in support of secure health messaging that has earned the trust of stakeholders from across the country. In late 2013, NATE kicked off the first phase of its PHR Ignite pilot program. Working with leaders in the electronic patient engagement domain and several health information service organizations in three states, NATE and the pilot participants successfully developed and demonstrated draft policies and procedures to enable trusted bidirectional exchange of protected health information (PHI) between patients and their providers. A [multi-stakeholder workgroup](#) of health IT experts and consumer advocates was convened in mid-2014 to review and update these policies and procedures so they can be put into full production. Before that happens, NATE is calling for widespread stakeholder input on the criteria that all organizations will be expected to meet in order to be part of the NBB4C Trust Bundle.

“Enabling patients to be a partner in the exchange of their protected health information is an important next step in achieving the triple aim and is perhaps the most important in establishing a truly patient-centered ecosystem. NATE’s new Blue Button Trust Bundle for Consumers establishes a practical framework that will enable patients to securely exchange health information with their providers without burdening the patient with unnecessary steps to get access to their health information and share it with whomever they choose,” said NATE’s CEO Aaron Seib. “NATE’s new NBB4C Trust Bundle defines a common set of trust criteria that gives providers, PHR vendors, health information organizations and others a reasonable method to rapidly identify those electronic patient engagement systems that meet or exceed all applicable laws and industry practices. We believe that the criteria make sense and are critical to ensuring that all patients get access to their data in a way that recognizes the obligations of their caregivers. Many organizations have contributed to the work we have produced to date. We welcome the input of other stakeholders with the hope of establishing not only an expanded dialogue but a workable means to get data to the patient and then to where the patient wants it to be from there.”

NATE thanks the experts and advocates that worked on this release of the NBB4C Trust Bundle criteria. The multi-stakeholder workgroup included:

- Adam Greene (Davis Wright Tremaine) [Co-Chair]
- Jeff Livesay (Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services) [Co-Chair]
- Johnny Allen (Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Authority)
- Janet Campbell (Epic)
- Christina Caraballo (Get Real Health)
- Jeff Donnell (NoMoreClipboard)
- Jane Eckels (Davis Wright Tremaine)
- Nathan Reno (Microsoft HealthVault)
- Bettina Experton and Chris Burrow (Humetrix)
- Josh Mandel (Children’s Hospital Boston/ONC Standards and Interoperability Framework Blue Button Plus API development workgroup)
- MaryAnne Sterling (Sterling HIT Consulting/consumer representative)

“It was an honor to co-chair the latest workgroup on NATE’s Blue Button for Consumers Trust Bundle. In Michigan, we believe that consumer-facing applications are an essential part of a secure health information exchange environment. NBB4C’s trust requirements provide a means of confirming the fundamental aspects of trust in consumer applications that Michigan patients expect,” said Jeff Livesay, Associate Director, Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services (MiHIN).

The [NBB4C policies and procedures](http://nate-trust.org/comment-on-nbb4c-policies-and-procedures/) are available for review, comment and endorsement at <http://nate-trust.org/comment-on-nbb4c-policies-and-procedures/>. NATE will host a [free webinar](#) to discuss the NBB4C Trust Bundle on November 5, 2014. Public comments will be accepted through November 14, 2014. Stakeholders representing all aspects of the national health information exchange environment are invited to offer comments. NATE expects that its Board of Directors will review and approve the final artifacts in December 2014 and the new trust bundle will go into production beginning January 1, 2015.

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About National Association for Trusted Exchange

The [National Association for Trusted Exchange](#) (NATE) brings the expertise of its membership and other stakeholders together to find common solutions that optimize the appropriate exchange of health information for greater gains in adoption and outcomes. Emerging from the Western States Consortium, a pilot project supported by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), NATE was established as a not-for-profit organization in May 2013. Consistent with NATE’s mission to address the legal, policy, and technical barriers that inhibit health information exchange between entities within a state and across states, NATE leads and participates in a number of ongoing and emerging projects in the HIE domain. NATE has been operating its own Trust Bundles in production since November 2012 and recently took over administration of the Blue Button Consumer Trust Bundles.