

# **CHARTER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PRIORITY HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

## **Purpose**

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of Priority Healthcare Corporation (the "Company") is appointed by the Board to assist the Board in monitoring (1) the integrity of the Company's financial statements, (2) the independent auditor's qualifications and independence, (3) executive oversight of the performance of the Company's internal audit function and independent auditors, and (4) the Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.

The Audit Committee is also responsible for reviewing the annual report required by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") to be included in the Company's proxy statement.

## **Committee Membership**

The Audit Committee shall consist of at least three directors. The members of the Audit Committee shall meet the independence and experience requirements of the Nasdaq Stock Market, Section 10A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act") and SEC rules and regulations.

The members and the Chair of the Audit Committee shall be appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Audit Committee members may be replaced by the Board.

## **Committee Authority and Responsibilities**

The Audit Committee shall have the sole authority to retain and terminate the independent auditor (subject, if applicable, to shareholder ratification). The Audit Committee shall preapprove all auditing services and permitted non-audit services, including the fees and terms thereof, to be performed for the Company by its independent auditor (subject to the de minimus exception for non-audit services described in Section 10A of the Exchange Act that are approved by the Audit Committee prior to the completion of the audit). The Audit Committee shall be directly responsible for the appointment, compensation and executive oversight of the work of the independent auditor, including resolution of disagreements between management and the auditor regarding financial reporting, as required by Section 10A of the Exchange Act. The independent auditor shall report directly to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee may establish pre-approval policies and procedures pursuant to which audit and permitted non-audit services are approved, as long as the policies and procedures are detailed as to the particular service, the Audit Committee is informed of each service, and such policies and procedures do not include delegation of the Audit Committee's responsibilities under the Exchange Act.

The Audit Committee shall meet as often as it determines, but not less frequently than quarterly.

The Audit Committee shall have the authority, to the extent it deems necessary or appropriate and without seeking Board approval, to retain independent legal, accounting or other advisors. The Company shall provide for appropriate funding, as determined by the Audit Committee, for payment of compensation to the independent auditor for the purpose of rendering or issuing an audit report and to any advisors employed by the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee may request any officer or employee of the Company or the Company's outside counsel or independent auditor to attend a meeting of the Committee or to meet with any members of, or consultants to, the Committee. The Audit Committee shall meet with management, personnel responsible for the internal audit function and the independent auditor in separate executive sessions at least quarterly. The Audit Committee may also, to the extent it deems necessary or appropriate, meet with the Company's investment bankers or financial analysts who follow the Company.

The Audit Committee shall establish and maintain procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters and the confidential, anonymous submission by Company employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

The Audit Committee shall review and approve all related-party transactions.

The Audit Committee shall make regular reports to the Board which shall include a review of any issues that arise with respect to the quality or integrity of the Company's financial statements. The Audit Committee shall review and reassess the adequacy of this Charter annually and recommend any proposed changes to the Board for approval. The Audit Committee shall annually review the Audit Committee's own performance.

The Audit Committee shall also perform the following functions:

#### Financial Statement and Disclosure Matters

Review and discuss with management and the independent auditor the annual audited financial statements, including disclosures made in management's discussion and analysis, and recommend to the Board whether the audited financial statements should be included in the Company's Form 10-K.

Review and discuss with management and the independent auditor the Company's quarterly financial statements, including disclosures made in management's discussion and analysis, prior to the filing of its Form 10-Q, including the results of the independent auditor's reviews of the quarterly financial statements.

Discuss with management and the independent auditor major issues regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentations, including any significant changes in the

Company's selection or application of accounting principles, any major issues as to the adequacy of the Company's internal controls and any special audit steps adopted in light of material control deficiencies, as well as significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the Company's financial statements, including the development, selection and disclosure of critical accounting estimates, and analyses of the effect of alternative assumptions, estimates or GAAP methods on the Company's financial statements.

Discuss with management the Company's earnings press releases, including the use of "pro forma" or "adjusted" non-GAAP information, as well as financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies.

Discuss with management and the independent auditor the effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives as well as off-balance sheet structures on the Company's financial statements.

Discuss with management the Company's major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures, including the Company's risk assessment and risk management policies.

Discuss with the independent auditor the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 relating to the conduct of the audit. In particular, discuss:

***The adoption of, or changes to, the Company's significant auditing and accounting principles and practices as suggested by the independent auditor, any internal auditors or management.***

***The management letter provided by the independent auditor and the Company's response to that letter.***

***Any difficulties encountered in the course of the audit work, including any restrictions on the scope of activities or access to requested information, and any significant disagreements with management, including any accounting adjustments that were noted or proposed by the auditor but were "passed" (as being immaterial or otherwise).***

## Oversight of the Company's Relationship with the Independent Auditor

Review the experience and qualifications of the senior members of the independent auditor team.

Obtain and review a report from the independent auditor at least annually regarding (a) the auditor's internal quality-control procedures, (b) any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality-control review, or peer review, of the firm, or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities within the preceding five years respecting one or more independent audits carried out by the firm, (c) any steps taken to deal with any such issues, and (d) all relationships between the independent auditor and the Company.

Evaluate the qualifications, performance and independence of the independent auditor, including considering whether the auditor's quality controls are adequate and the provision of non-audit services is compatible with maintaining the auditor's independence, and taking into account the opinions of management and the personnel responsible for the internal audit function. The Audit Committee shall present its conclusions to the Board and, if so determined by the Audit Committee, recommend that the Board take additional action to satisfy itself of the qualifications, performance and independence of the auditor.

Assure the regular rotation of those audit partners of the independent auditor as required by Section 10A of the Exchange Act.

Consider whether, in order to assure continuing auditor independence, it is appropriate to adopt a policy of rotating the independent auditing firm on a regular basis.

Set policies for the Company's hiring of employees or former employees of the independent auditor who were engaged on the Company's account.

Discuss with the national office of the independent auditor issues on which it was consulted by the Company's audit team and matters of audit quality and consistency.

Meet with the independent auditor prior to the audit to discuss the planning and staffing of the audit.

Obtain and review the report required under Section 10A of the Exchange Act from the independent auditor.

## Oversight of the Company's Internal Audit Function

Discuss with the independent auditor the responsibilities, budget and staffing of the internal audit function and any recommended changes in the planned scope of the internal audit.

Review with the Board the performance of the Company's internal audit function.

## Compliance Oversight Responsibilities

Obtain from the independent auditor assurance that the provisions of Section 10A of the Exchange Act respecting the detection and reporting of illegal acts have not been implicated.

Obtain reports from management and the independent auditor that the Company is in conformity with applicable legal requirements and the Company's Ethics and Corporate Compliance Program. Review reports and disclosures of insider and affiliated party transactions. Advise the Board with respect to the Company's policies and procedures regarding compliance with applicable laws and regulations and with the Company's Ethics and Corporate Compliance Program.

Discuss with management and the independent auditor any correspondence with regulators or governmental agencies and any employee complaints or published reports which raise material issues regarding the Company's financial statements or accounting policies.

Discuss with the Company's General Counsel legal matters that may have a material impact on the financial statements or the Company's compliance policies.

#### **Limitation of Audit Committee's Role**

While the Audit Committee has the responsibilities and powers set forth in this Charter, it is not the duty of the Audit Committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Company's financial statements and disclosures are complete and accurate and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and applicable rules and regulations. These are the responsibilities of management and the independent auditor.