

EXICURE, INC.

CHARTER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PURPOSE AND POLICY

The purpose of the Audit Committee (the “*Committee*”) of the Board of Directors (the “*Board*”) of Exicure, Inc. (the “*Company*”) is to:

- oversee the Company’s accounting and financial reporting processes, systems of internal control, financial statement audits and the integrity of the Company’s financial statements;
- manage the selection, engagement terms, fees, qualifications, independence, and performance of the registered public accounting firms engaged as the Company’s independent outside auditors for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or performing audit services (the “*Auditors*”);
- maintain and foster an open avenue of communication with the Company’s management, internal audit group (if any) and Auditors;
- review any reports or disclosures required by applicable law and stock exchange listing requirements;
- oversee the design, implementation, organization and performance of the Company’s internal audit function (if any);
- monitor and assess, and oversee the reporting of, any material cybersecurity breaches and associated risks affecting the Company;
- help the Board oversee the Company’s legal and regulatory compliance, including risk assessment; and
- provide regular reports and information to the Board.

COMPOSITION

The Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members of the Board. The members of the Committee shall satisfy (i) the independence and financial literacy requirements imposed by the SEC and The Nasdaq Stock Market (“*Nasdaq*”), including any exceptions permitted by such requirements, as applicable to Committee members as in effect from time to time, when and as required by the SEC and Nasdaq, and (ii) any other qualifications determined by the Board or the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board from time to time; provided that the Board may elect to take advantage of any exception from such requirements provided by Nasdaq rules.

In addition, each member of the Committee (i) shall not have participated in the preparation of the financial statements of the Company at any time during the past three years, and (ii) shall be free from any relationship that, in the opinion of the Board, would interfere with the member’s independent judgment as a Committee member. At least one member of the Committee shall satisfy the applicable financial sophistication requirements and any other requirements, each as in effect from time to time, for accounting

or related financial management expertise, as determined by the Board in its business judgment, when and as required by the SEC or any stock exchange on which any of the Company's capital stock is listed.

Additionally, at least one member of the Committee shall be an "audit committee financial expert" as defined under Regulation S-K promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "**Exchange Act**") and at least one member (who may also serve as the audit committee financial expert) shall have past employment experience in finance or accounting, requisite professional certification in accounting or other comparable experience or background that leads to financial sophistication. The designation or determination by the Board of a person as an audit committee financial expert will not impose on such person individually, on the Committee, or on the Board as a whole, any greater duties, obligations or liability than would exist in the absence of such designation or determination.

The members of the Committee shall be appointed by and serve at the discretion of the Board. Resignation or removal of a Committee member from the Board for any reason shall automatically constitute resignation or removal, as applicable, from the Committee. Vacancies occurring on the Committee shall be filled by the Board. The Committee's chairperson shall be appointed by the Board, or if the Board does not do so, the Committee members shall elect a chairperson by vote of a majority of the full Committee.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES AND PROCESSES

In fulfilling its functions and responsibilities, the Committee should give due consideration to the following operating principles and processes:

- *Communication* – Regular and meaningful contact with the Board, members of senior management and independent professional advisors to the Board and its various committees, as applicable, shall be encouraged as a means of strengthening the Committee's knowledge of relevant current and prospective corporate accounting, financial reporting and internal control issues.
- *Meeting Agendas* – Committee meeting agendas shall be the responsibility of the chairperson of the Committee with input from the Committee members and other members of the Board as well as, to the extent deemed appropriate by the chairperson of the Board, from members of senior management and outside advisors.
- *Information Needs* – The Committee members shall communicate to the Chief Executive Officer or his or her designees the Committee's expectations, and the nature, timing, and extent of any specific information or other supporting materials requested by the Committee for its meetings and deliberations.
- *Committee Education/Orientation* – Developing with management and participating in a process for systematic review of important accounting and financial reporting issues and trends in accounting, financial reporting and internal control practices that could potentially impact the Company shall be encouraged to enhance the effectiveness of the Committee.

MEETINGS AND MINUTES

The Committee shall hold such regular or special meetings as its members shall deem necessary or appropriate. The Committee will meet at least quarterly and hold such special meetings as its members shall deem necessary or appropriate. Any member of the Committee or the Board may call a meeting of the Committee. Minutes of each meeting of the Committee shall be prepared and distributed to each director of the Company and the Secretary of the Company promptly after each meeting. A copy of the minutes of

each meeting and all consents shall be placed in the Company's minute book. The chairperson of the Committee shall report to the Board from time to time, or whenever so requested by the Board.

Unless otherwise directed by the Committee, each regularly scheduled meeting will conclude with an executive session of the Committee absent members of management. As part of its responsibility to foster open communication, the Committee will meet periodically with management, the director of the internal audit function, and the Auditors in separate executive sessions.

A majority of the members shall represent a quorum of the Committee, and, if a quorum is present, any action approved by a majority of the members present shall represent the valid action of the Committee. Any actions taken by the Committee during any period in which one or more members fail for any reason to meet the membership requirements set forth under "Composition" above shall be nonetheless duly authorized actions of the Committee for all corporate purposes. The Committee may act by unanimous written consent; when it does so, those actions will be filed in the minute book.

AUTHORITY

The Committee shall have authority to appoint, determine compensation for (at the Company's expense), retain and oversee the Auditors as set forth in Section 10A(m)(2) of the Exchange Act and the rules thereunder and otherwise to fulfill its responsibilities under this charter. Each member of the Committee shall have full access to all books, records, facilities and personnel of the Company as deemed necessary or appropriate by any member of the Committee to discharge his or her responsibilities hereunder. The Committee shall recommend to the Board for recommendation to the stockholders the appointment of the Auditors and, if the Auditors' remuneration is not fixed by resolution of the stockholders, shall recommend to the Board for its approval the remuneration payable to the Auditors.

The Committee shall have authority to determine compensation for (at the Company's expense) and oversee the Auditors and otherwise to fulfill its responsibilities under this Audit Committee Charter (the "**Charter**"). The Committee shall have authority to retain and determine compensation for, at the expense of the Company, special legal, accounting or other advisors, experts or consultants as it deems necessary or appropriate in the performance of its duties under this Charter, including any studies or investigations. The Committee shall also have authority to pay, at the expense of the Company, ordinary administrative expenses (including expenditures for external resources) that, as determined by the Committee, are necessary or appropriate in carrying out its duties, unless prohibited by Nasdaq listing rules or applicable law. The Committee shall have authority to request that any of the Company's personnel, counsel, accountants (including the Auditors) or investment bankers, or any other consultant or advisor to the Company attend any meeting of the Committee or meet with any member of the Committee or any of its special, outside legal, accounting or other, advisors or consultants.

The Committee may form and delegate authority to one or more subcommittees as appropriate, consisting of one or more members of the Board (whether or not he, she or they are on the Committee) to the extent allowed under applicable law and Nasdaq listing rules. Delegation by the Committee to any subcommittee shall not limit or restrict the Committee on any matter so delegated, and, unless the Committee alters or terminates such delegation, any action by the Committee on any matter so delegated shall not limit or restrict future action by such subcommittee on such matters. The operation of the Committee shall be subject to the Bylaws of the Company. Any subcommittee deciding to preapprove audit or non-audit services shall present their decision to the full Committee at its next scheduled meeting. The approval of this Charter by the Board shall be construed as a delegation of authority to the Committee with respect to the responsibilities set forth herein.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Committee's responsibility is one of oversight. The members of the Committee are not employees of the Company, and they do not perform, or represent that they perform, the functions of management or the Auditors. The Committee relies on the expertise and knowledge of management, the internal auditor (if any) and the Auditors in carrying out its oversight responsibilities. The management of the Company is responsible for preparing accurate and complete financial statements in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"), preparing periodic reports and for establishing and maintaining appropriate accounting principles and financial reporting policies and satisfactory internal control over financial reporting. The Auditors are responsible for auditing the Company's annual financial statements and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting and reviewing the Company's quarterly financial statements. It is not the responsibility of the Committee to prepare or certify the Company's financial statements, guarantee the audits or reports of the Auditors or ensure that the financial statements or periodic reports are complete and accurate, conform to GAAP or otherwise comply with applicable laws.

The Committee shall oversee the Company's financial reporting process on behalf of the Board, and shall have direct responsibility for the appointment, compensation, retention and oversight of the work of the Auditors and any other registered public accounting firm engaged for the purpose of performing other review or attest services for the Company. The Auditors and each such other registered public accounting firm shall report directly and be accountable to the Committee. The Committee's functions and procedures should remain flexible to address changing circumstances most effectively. To implement the Committee's purpose and policy, the Committee shall be charged with the following functions and responsibilities with the understanding, however, that the Committee may supplement or deviate from these activities as appropriate under the circumstances (except as otherwise required by applicable laws or requirements of any stock exchange on which any of the Company's capital stock may be listed):

1. *Evaluation of Auditors.* To evaluate the performance of the Auditors, to assess their qualifications (including their internal quality control procedures and any material issues raised by that firm's most recent internal quality control review or any investigations by regulatory authorities) and to determine whether to recommend retaining, or to terminate, the engagement of the existing Auditors, or to appoint and engage a different independent registered public accounting firm, which retention shall only be subject to ratification by the Company's stockholders (if the Committee or Board elects to submit such retention for ratification by the stockholders).

2. *Communication Prior to Engagement.* Prior to engagement of any prospective Auditors, to review a written disclosure by the prospective Auditors of all relationships between the prospective Auditors, or their affiliates, and the Company, or persons in financial oversight roles at the Company, that may reasonably be thought to bear on independence, and to discuss with the prospective Auditors the potential effects of such relationships on the independence of the prospective Auditors, including as required by Ethics and Independence Rule 3526, *Communication with Audit Committees Concerning Independence* (or any successor rule, "**Rule 3526**"), of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (the "**PCAOB**").

3. *Approval of Audit Engagements.* To determine and approve engagements of the Auditors to perform all proposed audit, review and attest services, prior to commencement of such engagements, including the scope of and plans for the audit, the adequacy of staffing, the compensation to be paid by the Company to the Auditors, and the negotiation and execution, on behalf of the Company, of the Auditors' engagement letters; such approval may be pursuant to preapproval policies and procedures established by the Committee consistent with applicable laws and rules, including the delegation of preapproval authority

to the chairperson of the Committee so long as any such preapproval decisions are presented to the full Committee at the next scheduled meeting.

4. *Approval of Non-Audit Services.* To determine and approve engagements of the Auditors to perform any proposed permissible non-audit services, prior to commencement of such engagements (unless in compliance with exceptions available under applicable laws and rules related to immaterial aggregate amounts of services), including the scope of the service and the compensation to be paid therefor by the Company; such approval may be pursuant to preapproval policies and procedures established by the Committee consistent with applicable laws and rules, including the delegation of preapproval authority to the chairperson of the Committee so long as any such preapproval decisions are presented to the full Committee at the next scheduled meeting.

5. *Audit Partner Rotation.* To monitor the rotation of the partners of the Auditors on the Company's audit engagement team as required by applicable laws and rules and to consider periodically and, if deemed appropriate, adopt a policy regarding rotation of auditing firms.

6. *Auditor Independence.* At least annually, including as required under Rule 3526, (i) to receive and review (a) written disclosures from the Auditors delineating all relationships between the Auditors, or their affiliates, and the Company, or persons in financial oversight roles at the Company, that may reasonably be thought to bear on the Auditors' independence and (b) a letter from the Auditors affirming their independence, (ii) to consider and discuss with the Auditors any potential effects of any such relationships on the independence of the Auditors as well as any compensation or services that could affect the Auditors' objectivity and independence, and (iii) to assess and otherwise take appropriate action to oversee the independence of the Auditors.

7. *Former Employees of Auditors.* To approve and periodically review policies regarding Committee preapproval of employment by the Company of individuals employed or formerly employed by the Auditors and engaged on the Company's account.

8. *Annual Audit Results.* To review with management and the Auditors, (i) the results of the annual financial statement audit, including the Auditors' assessment of the quality of the Company's accounting principles and practices, (ii) the Auditors' views about qualitative aspects of the Company's significant accounting practices, (iii) the reasonableness of significant judgments and estimates (including material changes in estimates and analyses of the effects of alternative GAAP methods on the financial statements), (iv) all misstatements identified during the audit (other than those the Auditors believe to be trivial), (v) the adequacy of the disclosures in the financial statements, and (vi) any other matters required to be communicated to the Committee by the Auditors under the standards of the PCAOB.

9. *Audited Financial Statement Review.* To review, upon completion of the annual financial statement audit, (i) the Company's financial statements proposed to be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K to be filed with the SEC, and any disclosure from the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer to be made in connection with the certification thereof, and to recommend whether or not such financial statements should be so included and (ii) other relevant reports or financial information submitted by the Company to any governmental body or the public, including management certifications as required by the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC and relevant reports rendered by the Auditors (or summaries thereof).

10. *Auditor Communications.* At least annually, to discuss with the Auditors (i) the matters required to be discussed by Auditing Standard 1301, *Communications with Audit Committees*, as amended, as adopted by the PCAOB (including any successor rule adopted by the PCAOB) and (ii), when and if applicable, any critical audit matters communicated or required to be communicated to the Committee by

Auditing Standard 3101, *The Auditor's Report on an Audit of Financial Statements When the Auditor Expresses an Unqualified Opinion*, as amended, as adopted by the PCAOB (including any successor rule adopted by the PCAOB).

11. *Quarterly Results and Reports on Form 10-Q.* To review with management and the Auditors, as appropriate, (i) the results of the Auditors' review of the Company's quarterly financial statements and any disclosure from the Company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer to be made in connection with the certification of the Company's quarterly reports filed with the SEC, and to ensure review comments are adjudicated as needed, and to authorize the finalization of the quarterly report with such changes as directed or needed, prior to public disclosure of quarterly financial information, if practicable, or filing with the SEC of the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q, (ii) any other matters required to be communicated to the Committee by the Auditors under the standards of the PCAOB or (iii) other relevant reports or financial information submitted by the Company to any governmental body or the public, including management certifications as required in the applicable rules and regulations of the SEC and relevant reports rendered by the Auditors (or summaries thereof).

12. *Management's Discussion and Analysis and Risk Factors.* To review with management and the Auditors, as appropriate, the Company's disclosures contained under the captions "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations" and "Risk Factors" in its periodic reports and other filings to be filed with the SEC.

13. *Press Releases.* To review with management and, to the extent appropriate, with the Auditors, earnings press releases, as well as the substance of financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and ratings agencies (including, without limitation, reviewing any pro forma or non-GAAP information), which discussions may be general discussions of the type of information to be disclosed or the type of presentation to be made. The chairperson of the Committee may represent the entire Committee for purposes of this discussion.

14. *Accounting Principles and Policies.* To review with management and the Auditors, as appropriate, significant issues that arise regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentation, including critical accounting policies and practices, alternative accounting policies available under GAAP related to material items discussed with management, the potential impact on the Company's financial statements of off-balance sheet structures, and any other significant reporting issues and judgments, significant regulatory, legal and accounting initiatives or developments that may have a material impact on the Company's financial statements, compliance programs and policies if, in the judgment of the Committee, such review is necessary or appropriate.

15. *Risk Assessment and Management.* To review and discuss with management and the Auditors, as appropriate, (i) the Company's guidelines and policies with respect to financial risk management and financial risk assessment, including the Company's major financial risk exposures and the steps taken by management to monitor and control these exposures and (ii) management risks relating to data privacy, technology and information security, including cyber security and backup of information systems, and the steps the Company has taken to monitor and control such exposures. Areas of focus for the Committee shall include the Company's policies and other matters relating to the Company's investments, cash management and foreign exchange management, major financial risk exposures, the adequacy and effectiveness of the Company's information security policies and practices and the internal controls regarding information security, and the steps taken by management to monitor and mitigate or otherwise control these exposures and to identify future risks.

16. *Cybersecurity Risks.* In connection with its monitoring and oversight role with regard to cybersecurity risks affecting the Company, the Committee shall receive periodic reports from management

on the Company's assessment and management of cybersecurity risks, periodically evaluate the Company's disclosure controls with respect to cybersecurity risks and incidents, review any reports from management on material breaches, and assess key risks and oversee the disclosure of any significant risks and incidents to the extent required by applicable law, including SEC rules and regulations.

17. *Management Cooperation with Audit.* To evaluate the cooperation received by the Auditors during their audit examination, including any significant difficulties encountered during the audit or any restrictions on the scope of their activities or access to required records, data and information and, whether or not resolved, significant disagreements with management and management's response, if any.

18. *Management Letters.* To review with the Auditors and, if appropriate, management, any "management" or "internal control" letter issued or, to the extent practicable, proposed to be issued by the Auditors and management's response, if any, to such letter, as well as any additional material written communications between the Auditors and management.

19. *National Office Communications.* To review with the Auditors, as appropriate, communications between the audit team and the Auditors' national office with respect to accounting or auditing issues presented by the engagement.

20. *Disagreements between Auditors and Management.* To review with management and the Auditors, or any other registered public accounting firm engaged to perform review or attest services, any conflicts or disagreements between management and the Auditors, or such other accounting firm, whether or not resolved, regarding financial reporting, accounting practices or policies or other matters, that individually or in the aggregate could be significant to the Company's financial statements or the Auditors' report, and to resolve any conflicts or disagreements regarding financial reporting.

21. *Internal Control over Financial Reporting; Disclosure Controls.* To (i) confer with management and the Auditors, as appropriate, regarding the scope, adequacy, and effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting and the Company's disclosure controls and procedures, including any significant deficiencies, significant changes in internal controls and the adequacy and effectiveness of the Company's information and cyber security policies and the internal controls regarding information security, (ii) confer with management and the Auditors, as appropriate, regarding the responsibilities, budget and staff of the internal audit function (if any) and review of the appointment or replacement of the senior internal audit executive or manager and (iii) obtain reports on significant findings and recommendations with respect to internal controls over financial reporting, together with management responses and any special audit steps adopted in light of any material control deficiencies.

22. *Separate Sessions.* Periodically, to meet in separate sessions with the Auditors, the internal auditors, if any, or other personnel responsible for the internal audit function, as applicable and appropriate, and management to discuss any matters that the Committee, the Auditors, the internal auditors, if any, or other personnel responsible for the internal audit function, or management believe should be discussed privately with the Committee.

23. *Correspondence with Regulators.* To consider and review with management, the Auditors, outside counsel, as appropriate, and any special counsel, separate accounting firm or other consultants and advisors as the Committee deems appropriate, any correspondence with regulators or governmental agencies and any published reports that raise material issues regarding the Company's financial statements or accounting policies.

24. *Complaint Procedures.* To establish procedures, when and as required by applicable laws and rules, for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding

accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters and the confidential and anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters, including under the Company's "Whistleblower Policy for Accounting and Auditing Matters."

25. *Engagement of Registered Public Accounting Firms.* To determine and approve engagements of any registered public accounting firm (in addition to the Auditors), prior to commencement of such engagements, to perform any other review or attest service, including the compensation to be paid, at the Company's expense, to such firm and the negotiation and execution, on behalf of the Company, of such firm's engagement letter, which approval may be pursuant to preapproval policies and procedures, including the delegation of preapproval authority to one or more Committee members, so long as any such preapproval decisions are presented to the full Committee at the next scheduled meeting.

26. *Ethical Compliance.* To review the results of management's efforts to monitor compliance with the Company's programs and policies designed to ensure adherence to applicable laws and rules, as well as to its Code of Business Conduct and Ethics, including review and oversight of related-party transactions as required by applicable laws or requirements of any stock exchange on which any of the Company's capital stock is listed.

27. *Investigations.* To investigate any matter brought to the attention of the Committee within the scope of its duties if, in the judgment of the Committee, such investigation is necessary or appropriate.

28. *Proxy Report.* To oversee the preparation of the Committee report required by the rules of the SEC to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement.

29. *Insurance Coverage.* The Committee shall have the authority to review and establish appropriate insurance coverage for the Company's directors and officers.

30. *Report to Board.* To report to the Board with respect to material issues that arise regarding the quality or integrity of the Company's financial statements, the Company's compliance with legal or regulatory requirements, the performance or independence of the Auditors, the performance of the Company's internal audit function (as applicable) or such other matters as the Committee deems appropriate from time to time or whenever it shall be called upon to do so.

31. *Internal Control Report.* At least annually to obtain and review a report by the Auditors describing that firm's internal quality-control procedures, any material issues raised by the Company's most recent internal quality control review or peer review or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities, within the preceding five years, with respect to one or more independent audits performed by the firm, as well as any steps taken to address the issues raised.

32. *Internal Auditors.* If and to the extent an internal audit department is established internally or via the use of a third party, to review the audit plan of the Company's internal audit department, to discuss the scope, staffing, compensation and locations of the internal audit department, to discuss the reliance upon management and general audit approach and any significant reports prepared by the internal auditors as well as management's responses thereto, to approve the hiring and dismissal of the director of the internal audit department, to periodically (no less frequently than annually) approve, review and recommend changes to the Charter of the internal audit department to ensure that the function has guidelines that allow it to operate effectively, and to ensure that the director of the internal audit department and those reporting to the director on internal audit matters have access to the Company's records as necessary to permit the function to operate effectively. To periodically review with the Auditors, the responsibility, budget and staffing of the internal audit department. To discuss, with the Auditors and management, the

function of the internal audit department and the extent to which changes or improvements in financial or accounting practices have been implemented.

33. *Related Party Transactions.* To consider and approve or disapprove any related party transaction as defined under SEC Regulation S-K Item 404, to the extent required by SEC regulations and in accordance with the Company's Related Person Transaction Policy.

34. *Committee Self-Assessment; Charter.* The Committee shall review, discuss and assess its own performance at least annually. The Committee shall also review and assess the adequacy of this Charter annually and shall recommend any proposed changes to the Board for its consideration.

35. *Other Legal and Finance Matters.* To review, (i) with the Company's counsel, legal compliance and legal matters that could have a significant impact on the Company's financial statements and (ii) with management, the Company's finance function, including its budget, organization and quality of personnel.

36. *General Authority.* To perform such other functions and to have such powers as may be necessary or appropriate in the discharge of any of the foregoing.

PUBLICATION

The Company will post this Charter on the Company's website as required by applicable rules and regulations.

Approved: September 30, 2021

Effective: September 30, 2021