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# Black Book Trust Framework

## Independence, Measurement, and Continuous Qualification for Healthcare Technology Benchmarking

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Black Book Market Research exists to help healthcare organizations make better technology and services decisions through research that is independent, measurable, and repeatable over time. We believe industry trust is earned when evaluation criteria are clear, performance is quantified through meaningful KPIs, and recognition reflects ongoing market realities - not a one-time snapshot.

This Trust Framework sets the standards Black Book uses to design research programs, publish findings, and recognize top-performing solutions and services.

### 1) Independence by Design

Black Book operates with an independence-first model intended to keep research outcomes insulated from commercial influence. Participation in Black Book research does not require vendor payment, and recognition is not purchased. Black Book maintains internal controls to separate research operations from commercial activity so that benchmarking remains vendor-agnostic and buyer-relevant.

### 2) KPI-Based Measurement

Black Book benchmarks performance using defined, measurable key performance indicators (KPIs) aligned to real operational and clinical needs. KPIs are designed to be specific, actionable, and comparable across vendors and service providers. Where appropriate, Black Book supplements experience signals with performance indicators that reflect outcomes, reliability, and operational impact.

### 3) Transparent Scoring and Definitions

Black Book research is anchored in published definitions and clear evaluation criteria. We strive to make scoring interpretable and decision-useful by disclosing what is being measured, how results are categorized, and how qualification thresholds are determined. When criteria evolve, Black Book documents updates so stakeholders can understand what changed and why.

### 4) Multi-Stakeholder Perspective

Healthcare technology success is multi-dimensional. Black Book research incorporates perspectives across relevant stakeholder groups - such as clinicians, operational leaders, IT, revenue cycle, and administrative users - so that results reflect the realities of implementation, adoption, performance, and ongoing support.

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## **5) Continuous Qualification in a Changing Market**

Markets evolve. Capabilities that mattered two years ago may not define buyer value today - particularly in domains such as AI-enabled workflows, cybersecurity, interoperability, and automation. For this reason, Black Book recognition is designed to reflect ongoing qualification against current expectations rather than relying on legacy performance. Black Book updates KPI frameworks as the market changes so that consistent leaders remain accountable to measurable progress.

## **6) Governance, Integrity, and Accountability**

Black Book applies data integrity controls intended to strengthen the reliability of findings, including respondent validation practices, consistency checks, and internal review prior to publication. When errors are identified, Black Book is committed to timely correction and transparent clarification. Our objective is research stakeholders can trust, cite, and operationalize.

This framework is intended to support clear expectations for research integrity and to provide buyers and industry stakeholders with a stable reference point for how Black Book conducts benchmarking in a rapidly changing market.