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Dr Joseph LEE Kok Long,
Chairman of the LegCo's Panel on Health Services

By fax only on 2537-1851

Dear Hon Dr Lee,

Re: Supporting the eHR Information Infrastructure

Challenges to Hong Kong's healthcare system that we are all facing include our ageing population and the ability to combat various communicable diseases. The increasing number of people with non-communicable diseases also poses a major concern. In order to meet these challenges, our healthcare system, both public and private, must collaborate to provide the best and comprehensive healthcare services to all Hong Kong people.

The Medical Information Exchange Interest Group is a group of doctors with interest in medical information exchange. We strongly support the Government's plan to develop an Electronic Health Record (eHR) sharing system in Hong Kong. We unanimously endorse the government's proposal regarding the overall direction and the development roadmap of eHR sharing. We believe that the Government has taken the right course in ensuring access to comprehensive clinical information, at the point of care, across different sectors. eHR infrastructure would also facilitate learning from collective experience, and enable more sharing of new techniques, clinical protocols and best practices across different sectors. We feel that the eHR is an essential infrastructure for healthcare reform by bringing together the patients and medical healthcare providers in both the public and private sectors.

During our daily clinical encounters, we envisage that eHR will bring about better and quicker access to information, including drug history and allergies, thus leading to more accurate diagnosis and reducing medical errors. Professional time

spent in documentation and making referrals to other specialties will also be reduced. In fact, the current paper medical records management system will be revolutionized, hence translating into greater efficiency and operational cost savings. For driving broad participation from the profession, we support more training for healthcare professionals as well as support to upgrading the IT infrastructure for all healthcare providers. In particular, the Government may consider providing necessary training to private doctors who are not familiar with electronic devices and the clinical information systems. In addition, the eHR system to be developed should be a doctor-friendly system that is easy to use.

On behalf of our members, we urge your full support to the Government's proposal, thereby advancing patient-oriented care, improving health care outcomes and developing HK into the center stage of a leading healthcare city.

Dr Ho Chung Ping
Chairman
Medical Information Exchange Interest Group