



LC Paper No. CB(2)1006/08-09(05)

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Dr. Joseph LEE Kok Long  
Chairman of the LegCo's Panel on Health Services  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Building, 8 Jackson Road,  
Central, Hong Kong

3 March 2009

Dear Hon Joseph Lee,

We write to support the development of territory-wide electronic health record (eHR) system in Hong Kong as proposed by the Government. We believe such a system will drive two vital changes in the nature of health care in Hong Kong. First, providing patients with the access to their critical health and medical information will encourage them to be more focused on their personal healthcare. Second, electronic health records and their related systems will support greater continuity of care across the health care sector, which enables the provision of comprehensive health care to patients.

We recognize that eHR is one critical component in the larger effort to create a comprehensive infrastructure for the electronic exchange of health care information: from patients to doctor, between doctors and other medical healthcare providers, and to advance public health on many fronts, such as enabling disease surveillance and providing health statistics for public health research.

As a non-profit organization, we provide different kinds of health care services to supplement those provided by other medical healthcare providers. We would like to be part of the team in providing comprehensive healthcare to patients. Yet, we have difficulties to afford investment in the kind of computer infrastructure, capital investment and technical expertise required. We thus look to the Government's assistance in this regard. Given the complexity of the project, we agreed that a dedicated body is needed to spearhead, oversee, and regulate the eHR development, operation, maintenance, finance, ownership of the records, standards for sharing, as well as the security and privacy protection of individual data and the entire system.

We look forward to the realization of the eHR vision in Hong Kong, through the support of LegCo and the Government. Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

(Patrick MA)  
Chairman  
Board of Directors