



March 3, 2009

Dear Hon Joseph Lee,

Developing an Electronic Health Record Sharing Infrastructure in Hong Kong

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.

Recognizing the important role of information and communication technologies (ICT) in support of health care, the Fifty-Eight World Health Assembly called on its member states to implement plans for eHealth services for cost effective health administration, to mobilize multi-sectoral collaboration for determining evidence-based eHealth standards and norms, and electronic public health information systems for surveillance of and rapid response to disease and public-health emergencies. We acknowledge that eHR is one critical component in the larger effort to create a comprehensive infrastructure to drive such plans into fruition and to advance public health on various fronts, such as providing health statistics for public health research.

As the prime non-profit making association which seeks to promote collaboration between healthcare and IT professionals in both private and public sectors for healthcare services with enhanced accessibility, quality and effectiveness, we are pleased to be part of the team contributing to the development of eHR in Hong Kong. Yet, 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.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr. Winnie Tang

Chairman,
eHealth Consortium
Steering Committee



Dr. Wong Chun Por

Co-chairman,
eHealth Consortium
Executive Committee