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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

**Letter on Supporting the Development a Hong Kong-wide Electronic Health Record
(eHR) System**

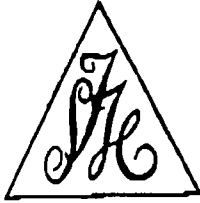
Dear Hon Lee,

This letter is submitted in support of the development of a territory-wide patient-oriented electronic health record (eHR) system under the co-ordination of a dedicated office under the Food and Health Bureau for sharing of patients' medical information between healthcare providers by a highly secured electronic platform. We firmly believe that a government-led development will generate confidence among private healthcare providers and patients.

We are pleased to see the Government's continuous efforts in driving the development of electronic clinical information management system. Nevertheless, we would like to see the Government to take a more active role in transferring to us the know-how and expertise that would facilitate our deployment of clinical management system. We would also like to see the Government providing technical support for us to connect our clinical and departmental systems to our hospitals' electronic patients' record systems, and to provide the necessary interface to facilitate the interconnection to the future eHR system.

Additionally, we applaud the efforts already invested in the Public Private Interface-electronic Patient Record (PPI-ePR) Sharing Pilot Projects with a view to

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enhancing collaboration between the public and private sectors. We fully believe that these pilot projects help facilitate a free flow of patients between the two sectors and allow timely access of information. We strongly believe that the Government should conduct more similar kind of sharing pilot projects to test the technical feasibility, for example the protection of patient data privacy under an internet environment, of eHR sharing.

We believe that the availability of comprehensive e-records will enable timely and informed decisions to be made at the point of care. Additionally, online access to drugs dispensed will lead to reduction in duplication and prevention of contraindications. Various healthcare providers will no longer need to repeat data collection, as histories are readily available on eHR, and error in hand written collection or transcribing is minimized.

The changes brought about by eHR will also provide the opportunity for extensive re-engineering of health care administrative processes to achieve greater efficiency, and yield associated cost savings. Examples being enhanced capabilities in medical record management, medical analysis and planning, monitoring of healthcare outcomes and detection of epidemiological changes in disease patterns. Integration with other industries in the healthcare eco-system, such as insurance companies, pharmacists, social welfare agencies would also greatly benefit all parties involved, particularly the patients.

The private hospital sector is keen to upgrade its services for the residents of Hong Kong, which also includes our IT infrastructure. We would therefore hope that this proposal receives the support of the Legislative Council for the benefit of all Hong Kong people.

Yours sincerely,

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C.M. Wong,
Medical Superintendent