

香港藥學服務基金

The Hong Kong Pharmaceutical Care Foundation

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Dr. Hon Lee Kok Long
Chairman,
Panel on Health Services,
Legislative Council,
HKSAR

Date: March 4th 2009

Dear Hon Lee,

Panel on Health Services Meeting on 9 March 2009

We are all facing challenges to Hong Kong's healthcare system that include our ageing population and our ability to combat various communicable diseases. Besides, 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 Hong Kong Pharmaceutical Care Foundation strongly supports 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 chosen 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. Most importantly, eHR is an essential infrastructure for healthcare reform by bringing together the patients and pharmaceutical healthcare providers in both the public and private sectors.

One of our Foundation's missions is to safe guard the medication safety for the residents at both of the Rehabilitation, Care & Attention and Nursing Homes. During our daily clinical encounters in handling the medications for these residents, we have problems in getting an overall picture about the complete and up to date list of medications for the residents. Hence, we envisage that eHR will bring about better and quicker access to information, including drug history and allergies, thus leading to more accurate medication reconciliation and review processes by preventing medication incidents.

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 pharmacists who may not be familiar with electronic devices and the clinical information systems. In addition, the eHR system to be developed should be a user-friendly system that is easy to use.

On behalf of our Foundation, we sincerely hope to have a chance to be involved by the eHR system Development Advisory Committee to take part in the design of the future service delivery model in the community under the Public Private Interface and we urge your full support to the Government's proposal, thereby advancing patient-oriented care, improving health care outcomes and developing Hong Kong into the center stage of a leading healthcare city.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Billy Chung Wing-Ming

Chief Operating Officer

The Hong Kong Pharmaceutical Care Foundation