



沙田國際醫務中心仁安醫院
SHATIN INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CENTRE
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By Fax: 2537 1851

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

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 consider that a government-led development will generate confidence among private healthcare providers and patients.

We are pleased to see that the Government continuously drives the development of electronic clinical information management system. Nevertheless, we would like to see the Government to take a more active role in sharing with the private sector the know-how and expertise that would facilitate deployment of clinical management system. We would also like to see the Government providing technical support for the private sector to connect clinical and departmental systems to hospital electronic patient record systems, and to provide the necessary interface to facilitate 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 enhancing collaboration between the public and private sectors. We fully believe that these pilot projects help facilitate 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 technical feasibility of eHR sharing, for example the protection of patient data privacy under an internet environment.

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 drug interactions and 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.

P 1 of 2

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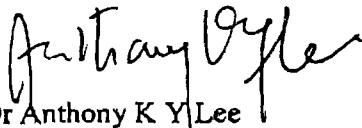
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The changes brought about by eHR will also provide the opportunity for extensive re-engineering of health care administrative processes to achieve greater efficiency, and yield associated cost savings. Examples are enhanced capabilities in medical 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 stakeholders, 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



Dr Anthony K Y Lee
Chief Hospital Manager & Medical Director

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