

Dr Joseph LEE Kok Long
Chairperson, Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council
(c/o Legislative Council Secretariat,
8, Jackson Road, Central Hong Kong)

6th March 2009

Dear Hon Dr Lee,

Supporting the development of an electronic health
record sharing infrastructure in Hong Kong

We write to support the government's initiative on developing a territory-wide electronic health record sharing system.

The proposed system would definitely bring long term benefit to all citizens by increasing the quality of health care in Hong Kong. A good number of member organizations of the Council are in fact health care providers in the community. On a daily basis, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are taking care of clients with a range of medical needs. They include for instance the senior persons and disabled people such as the intellectual challenged and the mentally challenged. A sharable health record system, needless to say, should further enhance the integration of care at hospitals with that in the community.

In fact, some experiments had been conducted between NGOs and the Hospital Authority in recent years with satisfactory results. While the NGO sector in general share the vision of enhancing health care in the community, we foresee that one major hurdle for wider participation in the future would be affordability. NGOs are unlikely to be able to afford the setup cost for the infrastructure and maintenance at their end. Although such implementation details could be addressed at a later stage, we would like to raise them as early as possible through different channels.

Page 1 of 2

We are aware that a steering committee would be formed to mastermind the project. Since NGOs are in the long run major stakeholders of the system, the steering committee should consist of representatives from the NGO sector.

We look forward to your approval of the project. We hope you would acknowledge our concerns so that the system could bring its best possible value ultimately to the community.

Yours sincerely,



Dr John FUNG
Director
Information Technology Resource Centre
The Hong Kong Council of Social Service