



香港藥學會

The Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong

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Dr Hon Joseph Lee Kok-Long, JP
Chairman
Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council
HKSAR

By fax and by post

Dear Chairman,

e-Health Record

Challenges to Hong Kong's healthcare system that we are all facing include our ageing population and the ability to combat various communicable diseases. 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 Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong strongly supports the Government's plan to develop an Electronic Health Record (eHR) sharing system in Hong Kong. We endorse 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 including the community pharmacy sector. 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 all healthcare providers in both the public and private sectors.

During our daily clinical encounters, we envisage that eHR will bring about better and quicker access to information, including drug history and allergies, thus leading to more accurate diagnosis and reducing medical errors. 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 including community pharmacists. In particular, the Government may consider providing necessary training to private doctors, pharmacists and allied health professionals who are

not 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 members, we would like to express our sincere wish of having a health care system which can facilitate patient-oriented care, improve health care outcomes and develop HK into the centre stage of a leading healthcare city.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B Kwong', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Benjamin Kwong
President
The Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong