

27 June 2011

Doctor the Honourable KL Leung
Chairman, Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong

Dear Dr Leung,

**Re: Implementation of Hospital Accreditation
in Hong Kong Public Hospitals**

We are writing to you as a group of local surveyors, trained and appointed by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS), involved in the hospital accreditation programme. We are grateful to you and the Panel on Health Services for inviting us to express our views regarding the implementation of hospital accreditation in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong surveyors are an assemblage of healthcare professionals and executives with vast experience in clinical services and healthcare management. We come from diversified background of clinical, nursing, allied health and administrative disciplines, both in the private and public sectors. We have in particular one thing in common- we are all staunch advocates of quality and safety. We are keen to support and see the full implementation of hospital accreditation in Hong Kong.

Hospital accreditation is a well recognized tool for continuous quality improvement in the healthcare setting. With rising concerns about patient safety and desire for quality healthcare, hospital accreditation is gaining popularity and wide acceptance globally. As surveyors, we can attest to the usefulness and relevance of hospital accreditation locally. Having been involved in the pilot scheme, we have witnessed the dedication and

commitment of healthcare workers in using accreditation as the tool to bolster quality in domains such as clinical safety, care efficacy and patient experience in alignment with international standards. We have encountered exemplary examples of improvement which include but not limited to escalation of standards in disinfection, sterilization and infection control practices; modernization of care delivery processes and service delivery models; enhancement of patient safety and risk management in clinical areas and improvement in end of life care. The potential impacts and benefits of these and other improvements brought about by the pilot hospital accreditation scheme are huge and far-reaching, and ultimately the beneficiaries are our patients, staff and members of the public.

Hospital accreditation with the use of ACHS Standards is new to our public hospitals. We fully recognize that both local surveyors and hospitals involved in the pilot scheme are still in a learning phase. We fully appreciate that frontline staff may be faced with uncertainty and additional work in the course of undertaking hospital accreditation. However, with the experience gained in the pilot scheme, we are convinced that Hong Kong is now much better poised to take the hospital accreditation scheme forward. With prudent planning and pacing of the hospital accreditation programme, additional effort invested in staff education and engagement, and provision of appropriate matching manpower and resources to assist hospitals and staff, we are confident that the future extension of the accreditation scheme to more public hospitals would be a success.

Hospital Accreditation is a thousand mile journey, for which we have only embarked on the first step. With its many benefits, we sincerely hope that all Members of the Panel on Health Services will support the implementation of hospital accreditation so that the public healthcare system can ride on this opportunity to achieve better care for our patients, our staff and our community.

Yours sincerely,



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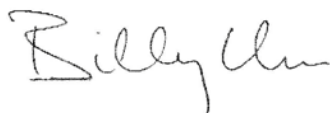
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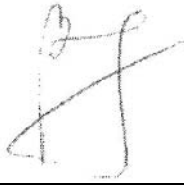
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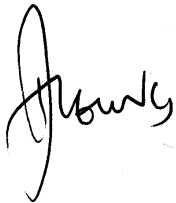
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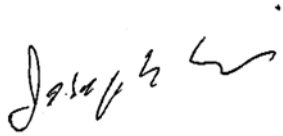
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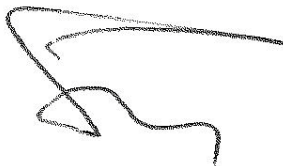
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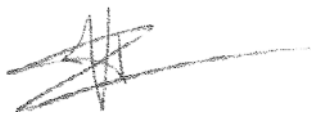
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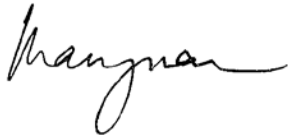
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