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Dr Joseph LEE Kok Long Chairman of the LegCo's Pancl on Health Services Legislative Council Secretariat Legislative Council Building 8 Jackson Road Central, Hong Kong

3rd March 2009

Suggestions on the Development of Electronic Health Record System in Hong Kong

Dear Hon Joseph Lee,

On behalf of Senior Citizen Home Safety Association, I write to support the development of territory-wide electronic health record (eHR) system in Hong Kong as proposed by the Government. We believe such a system will drive two vital changes in the nature of health care in Hong Kong. Firstly, providing patients with the access to their critical health and medical information will encourage them to be more focused on their personal healthcare. Secondly, electronic health records and their related systems will support greater continuity of care across the health care providers in all sectors and settings, which enables the provision of seamless and comprehensive health care to patients. Thirdly, it can also enhance the integration between health and welfare service in particularly for the challenges to be faced by the ageing society like Hong Kong.

We recognize that cHR is one critical component in the larger effort to create a comprehensive infrastructure for the electronic exchange of health care information: from patients to doctor, between doctors and other medical healthcare providers, and to advance public health on many fronts, such as enabling disease surveillance and providing health statistics for public health research.

As a non-profit making social and charitable service organization offering 24-hour emergency support and care services to more than 120,000 service users over the past 12 years, and at our daily service, we take safety and health conditions, with psychosocial health in particular, as our utmost considerations. Thus we would very much like to be part of the team in providing comprehensive healthcare to patients. Yet, we have difficulties to afford investment in ICT infrastructure, capital investment and technical expertise required. We thus look to the Government's assistance in this regard. Given the complexity of the project, we agreed that a dedicated body is needed to spearhead, oversee, and regulate the eHR development, operation, maintenance, finance, ownership of the records, standards for sharing, as well as the security and privacy protection of individual data and the entire system. We would like to be involved as a member of such body.

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We look forward to the realization of the eHR vision in Hong Kong, through the support of LegCo and the Government. And, would also like to be actively involved in the course of its development.

Yours sincerely, SENIOR CITIZEN HOME SAFETY ASSOCIATION

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Timothy Ma

Executive Director

c.c. The Hon. Cheung Kwok Che, Executive Committee Member, SCHSA Mr. Peter Nip, Chairman, Executive Committee, SCHSA Dr. C.K. Law, Hon. Treasurer, Executive Committee, SCHSA