THE HONG KONG COLLEGE OF
PATHOLOGISTS

明理

通識

SCIENTIA ILLUMINAT MEDICINAM
香港病理學專科學院

5 March 2009

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

Support to the Electronic Health Record Sharing System in Hong Kong

Dear Hon Lee,

Pathology, through providing clinical laboratory service for diagnosis, prognosis and monitoring, is essential to the delivery of high quality evidence-based treatments and care. With an ever-increasing reliance on laboratory service in today's patient management, so that higher intensity of testing over a broader range and greater specificity is routinely required, the need to accurately, speedily and uninterruptedly collecting, processing, and transmitting an extremely high volume of information becomes mission-critical.

The College therefore strongly supports the Government's plan to develop an Electronic Health Record (eHR) sharing system in Hong Kong, and to incorporate a laboratory information sub-system (LIS) as its essential component. An efficient and highly connected eHR-LIS could combine all relevant laboratory testing results together, whether the tests are done in a small laboratory or in a highly sophisticated central facility, for patient management. The interconnectivity of laboratory information systems would help integrate diversified testing facilities and turns them into a single virtual laboratory – it renders the actual location of laboratory testing immaterial and entirely transparent to the users. Through eHR with integrated laboratory information, 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.

On behalf of the Council, I urge your full support to the Government's proposal, thereby advancing patient-oriented care, improving health care outcomes and developing Hong Kong into the center stage of a leading healthcare city.

Yours sincerely,

(Dr LEE Kam Cheong)
for Council
The Hong Kong College of Pathologists

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