

19 June 2009
Dr Hon Joseph LEE Kok-long
Chairman, Panel on Health Services
Legislative Council, HKSAR

Dear Dr Hon LEE.

Re: Development of a territory-wide electronic healthcare record sharing system LC Paper No. CB(2)1006/08-09(03) and LC Paper No. CB(2)1934/08-09(03)

Thank you for your invitation of 16 June. The Hong Kong Public Doctors' Association would like to submit the following views for the Panel's consideration.

- 1. We believe the development of a Hong Kong wide electronic healthcare record sharing system, if properly planned, regulated, maintained, rolled-out and implemented is beneficial to the public. The Association is supportive of the initiative.
- 2. As detailed in LC Paper No. CB(2)1006/08-09(03), the initiative will involve many complex issues of concerns to medical doctors. As half of the approximately 10,000 practicing doctors in Hong Kong currently works in the Hospital Authority, there is no doubt that the direct involvement of public doctors at all stages is of paramount importance. This is particularly essential because the government is proposing to leverage the project upon the Hospital Authority's CMS, with which our members have extensive experience. We are completely familiar with the strengths and weakness, the bugs and "hangs", bureaucracy and shortcomings, and so on in the current system. Regrettably, the Steering Committee on eHealth Record Sharing had no representation from public doctors, except for executive(s) nominated by the Hospital Authority Head Office (Appendix I).

3. We would like to make it clear to the Honorable members in the Panel that (Appendix II) "The Hospital Authority don't represent us 醫管局不代表我們".

As such we appeal to the Panel to request the government to revise the proposed membership for the Steering Committee by including a public doctors' representative; so that our voice could be heard.

Yours sincerely,



HO Pak-leung, MD
For the Hong Kong Public Doctors' Association



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Membership:

- (1) Representatives of -
 - Food and Health Bureau
 - Hospital Authority
 - Department of Health
 - Office of the Government Chief Information Officer
 - Efficiency Unit
 - Hong Kong Academy of Medicine
 - Hong Kong College of Radiologists
 - Hong Kong College of Pathologists
 - · Hong Kong Doctors Union
 - Hong Kong Medical Association
 - Hong Kong Private Hospitals Association
 - Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data
 - Consumer Council

(2) Individual members

- Individuals in private healthcare practices with eHR experience
- Individuals in various healthcare professions with eHR experience
- Individuals with health informatics, healthcare IT or other relevant experience