



Position Statement of Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Electronic Health Record Sharing System (EHRSS)

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Hong Kong Academy of Medicine (HKAM) believes that an electronic health record sharing system, if properly accessed and used, is beneficial to both patients and medical practitioners; and could help improve patient safety and reduce cost. HKAM in general welcomes and supports the launch of the EHRSS; and recommends the EHRSS Bill to be passed by the LegCo.

It is the position of the HKAM that:

1. Data accessibility and privacy are important. HKAM understands it may be difficult and sensitive to decide who have the right to know, and to know what. But it needs to be clarified. From the standpoint of the medical profession, the key value of any electronic health record platform is for improvement of medical services. Medical practitioners should have sufficient medical history of patients for better care management. While HKAM appreciates the need to protect privacy of patients, the quality of medical care would inevitably be affected if with too much emphasis on restriction of data accessibility by medical practitioners and privacy of patients on the electronic health record. The idea of "Safety Box" for keeping certain classified data should be carefully evaluated. The EHR Office should collect views for and against the set-up from all end-users, i.e. healthcare recipients and healthcare professionals, and then explain, clarify and address the concerns for various stake-holders before making a final decision.
2. The scope of sharable content should be clearly defined, e.g. whether OT records and anesthetic notes should be released. Whether doctors would have liability for accidentally overlooking data uploaded to the system during his treatment of a patient should also be clarified. Whether private doctors would enter comprehensive and accurate data may also affect the usefulness of the whole system.
3. A user-friendly interface is relevant and enables medical practitioners to make full use of the system.
4. Flexibility for future refinement and improvement should be allowed after the roll-out scheduled for 2015.

