



Hong Kong Private Hospitals Association

19 December 2014

Clerk to Bills Committee on
Electronic Health Record Sharing System
(Attn: Ms Louisa Yu)
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Madam

Re : Electronic Health Record Sharing System (eHRSS)

I write in support of the application of further funding for the establishment of a territory-wide patient-centred electronic health record (eHR) system under the Bill on Electronic Health Record Sharing system (eHRSS).

We are pleased to see the Government continuously drives the development of electronic clinical information management system. Up to how the IT Section of the Hospital Authority (HA) has produced a practical prototype which encompasses the records of all the patients who have been admitted into HA hospitals. Moreover through the Public Private Interface-electronic Patient Record (PPI-ePR) Sharing Pilot Project, doctors in private hospitals or in private practice have been able to access, with patient's consent, individual patient's medical record (ePR) in HA hospitals. This has been available for a number of years and both patients and doctors benefitted because clinical decision can often be made almost instantaneously with the readily accessible information. At the same time both money and time have been saved because blood tests and imaging examinations need not be duplicated in order to arrive at the correct diagnosis. I myself as a practicing physician has found this extremely helpful and my patients also rest assured that my consultation will not cost them extra expenses on tests and investigations.

In order that the ePR is complete, input from the private healthcare sector is indispensable. The reasons are obvious, especially for patients who had been admitted into one or more private hospitals or who had consulted more than one private medical practitioners, either for a second opinion or through the habit of shopping around for doctors. At the moment private hospitals can only upload medical imaging reports and digital images to the eHR or ePR and this is also limited to patients referred from HA to private hospitals for such examinations.

Presently private hospitals are actively participating in various eHR pilot projects other than PPI-ePR, such as CMS (Clinical Management System) Adaptation Modules like



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Structured Alert System, Discharge Summary, Diagnosis and Procedure Reporting etc. These help to prepare our members on eHR Sharing, and our members will also need to improve or upgrade their own computer system and network in order to implement full participation in such a project. A favourable decision by the Bills Committee will certainly help them to plan ahead in this worthwhile cause.

Needless to say, early implementation of eHRSS would facilitate better collaboration and seamless interfacing between public and private health care sectors. It allows free flow between the dual-tract healthcare system in Hong Kong while saving a lot of resources, both human and financial, to be spent on healthcare expenditure in the long run. When completed, such a system may be the first or only one of its kind in the world and should help to maintain Hong Kong's number one position amongst cities or countries on the globe whose citizens enjoy the longest life.

Thus I would like to appeal to the honorable members of the Bills Committee to consider the eHRSS Bill favourably in order to facilitate early implementation of the System for the welfare and health of the people of Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony K. Y. Lee', written in a cursive style.

Dr Anthony K Y Lee
Chairman

Hong Kong Private Hospitals Association

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