



香港醫療資訊學會有限公司

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Dr York Chow  
Secretary for Health and Food  
The Government of the HKSAR

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2008

Dear Dr Chow,

The Hong Kong Society of Medical Informatics (HKSMI) would like to express the following comments on the Health Care Reform documents:

1. Develop an electronic database of patient records EHR.

- A. The HKSMI fully supports this proposal. We consider the establishment of a territory wide electronic database of patient records that are sharable amongst all stakeholders of both the public and private healthcare service sectors a critical element in achieving future benefits in the healthcare reform exercise on top of its inherent benefits to the healthcare system.
- B. We consider an electronic health record for each citizen in Hong Kong an essential element in maintaining the quality and efficiency of future healthcare. Both local and overseas experience and studies have confirmed the benefits of EHR in terms of risk reductions, particularly in medications and surgical procedures. Accuracy and rapid availability of a comprehensive record at point of delivery of healthcare also hasten diagnosis and improve the outcome of treatments.
- C. We urge the government to pump in more resources to build an EHR that is robust, safe, accurate, comprehensive and protected from privacy leaks. The recent incidents on personal data loss and breach of data security and confidentiality require more attention in terms of resources requirement and Privacy Impact Assessment in the future EHR.
- D. We see the establishment of a territory EHR an imminent tool, in whatever finalized option of the Health Care Reform it may take. Apart from functioning as an essential reimbursement tool, it

further improves healthcare efficiency and could be a critical step in cost containment for the increasing impact on healthcare resources in the aging population.

- E. Even if the Health Care Reform cannot be passed, we also see the EHR an indispensable item for the betterment of healthcare in Hong Kong.
2. The HKSMI is neutral in selecting any suitable options of the reform. We believe that each option has its advantages and disadvantages. In fact, there is no best solution in any countries in the world.
  3. We are happy to provide further comments and offer our professional assistance to any future development of the Electronic Health Care Record System.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Dr CP Wong  
Chairman HKSMI, on behalf of the Council