

[Hong Kong]

Health Database in Hong Kong*¹

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Present Progress of IT in the Health Care Area in Hong Kong

- A. For healthcare professionals
- B. For the public, including public education
- C. E-Health record sharing
- D. Primary care directory
- E. Health database for subsidy programmes
 - (1) Elderly Healthcare Voucher Pilot Scheme
 - (2) Vaccination Subsidy Schemes
- F. For research and development

For healthcare professionals

- (1) Information access
- (2) News access
- (3) CME

For the public

- (1) Information access
- (2) Press release
- (3) Public education

E-Health record sharing

- (1) Food and Health Bureau—Steering Committee on eHealth Record Sharing (eHR sharing)
 - Working group on e-HR partnership
 - Working group on institutional arrangements
 - Working group on legal, privacy and security issues
 - Working group on eHealth record and information standards
 - Coordinating group on eHR and information standards
 - eHR domain group on drug record
 - Domain group on person mater index
 - eHR domain group on immunization record
 - eHR domain group on provider index
 - eHR domain group on laboratory record
 - Technical task force
- (2) eHR Sharing System Bill (eHRSS Bill)/Elec-

- tronic Record Sharing System Bill
- drafted
- security and privacy issues→safe deposit box
- future “Commissioner for the Electronic Health Record (eHRC)” to define data retention policy
- patient information notice
- consent, PIN, sharable data

- (3) The Hong Kong Medical Association TaoYuan Project (桃園計劃)—Clinic Management System (CMS) 3.0

The CMS 3.0 is an open-source clinical management system project jointly implemented by the Hong Kong Medical Association (HKMA) and the Information and Software Industry Association (ISIA), with funding support from the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO).

Now undergoing further enhancement—upgrade existing system so that it would connect to the eHR Sharing System via the eHR viewer; repack it as CME 4.0 (Wenchang project) (文昌計劃).

(<http://cms3.hkma.org/pages/index.asp>)

- (4) New requirements from government regarding uploaded information
 - Person Master Index for personal identification
 - Encounter with dates of attendance when patients consult private medical practitioners
 - Medication dispensed during healthcare process

Primary care directory

- Web-based system containing personal and practice-based information of different primary care providers
- Public can use the search function to choose the primary care providers who most suit them
- Consists of sub-directories for different healthcare professionals providing primary care. In the initial stage, we have established the sub-directories of doctors and dentists. Sub-directories

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for other professionals, like Chinese medicine practitioners, nurses and allied health professionals will be developed in a later stage

Health database for subsidy programmes

(1) Elderly Health Care Voucher Pilot Scheme (www.hcv.gov.hk)

Purposes:

- Encourage elders to seek consultation
- Establish a closer relationship with private doctors who are familiar with their health conditions
- Promote the concept of family doctor

Developments:

- 2009: 5 vouchers of \$50 each were provided to each elder aged 70 or above annually.
- 2012: increased the annual voucher amount from \$250 to \$500.
- 2013: further increased the annual voucher amount to \$1,000.
- 2014: further increased the annual voucher amount to \$2,000. Unspent vouchers would be carried forward and accumulated by an eligible elder, subject to a ceiling of \$4,000.

Highlights:

- Vouchers will be issued and used through the eHealth System. They will not be issued in paper form separately.
- Voucher Recipients need not pre-collect the health care vouchers.
- Voucher Recipients need not carry the health care vouchers.
- “Money follows Patient” – Voucher Recipients can choose freely on private primary healthcare services in the local community.

(2) Vaccination Subsidy Schemes

- Childhood Immunisation Programme
- Government Vaccination Programme
- Childhood Influenza Vaccination Subsidy Scheme
- Childhood Vaccination Subsidy Scheme (PCV13 booster)
- Elderly Vaccination Subsidy Scheme
- Pneumococcal Vaccination
- Residential Care Home Vaccination Programme

For research and development

- Faculty of Medicine of 2 Universities:
 - The University of Hong Kong
 - Chinese University of Hong Kong

- Other institutions

Current Status of Privacy Protection and Personal Information Protection, Including Handling of Gene Information

- The Office of the Privacy Commissioner for Personal Data (“PCPD”)
 - an independent statutory body set up to oversee the enforcement of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Cap. 486) (“the Ordinance”) which came into force on 20th December, 1996.
- The University of Hong Kong Privacy Policy Statement (http://www.hku.hk/privacy_policy/)

Use of the Citizen Numbering System

- Hong Kong Identity Card (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hong_Kong_Identity_Card)

Merits and Demerits of Health Care Supported by IT

Merits

- (i) Huge storage of database in limited space
- (ii) Efficient/Fast
- (iii) Able to cater different needs
- (iv) Based on a “need-to-know” basis, information readily available anywhere anytime to facilitate assessment and decision

Demerits

- (i) Security concerns
- (ii) Protection of patients’ privacy and respect of patients’ choice of not to disclose one’s own sensitive health record to unrelated healthcare providers
- (iii) Might need to set up a system separately storing patients’ sensitive data with security access control over it
- (iv) The hiding of certain data might lead to diagnosis errors or wrong treatment and influence patients’ care
- (v) The existence of a separate system might create stigmatization and labeling effect on patients, thus hampering the trust between doctors and patients