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eHealth Record Office  
Food and Health Bureau

Dear Sir/Madame,

### **eHR Public Consultation**

The Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong supports the electronic Health Record Sharing System to enhance the quality and efficiency of healthcare provided to our population.

In a study by the FDA that evaluated reports of fatal medication errors, the most common error involving medications was related to administration of an improper dose of medicine, accounting for 41% of fatal medication errors [1]. Furthermore a leading research group in the US reported fatal adverse drug reactions to be between the fourth and sixth leading cause of death [2]. Medication errors are among the most common causes of preventable harm to the American public. The Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong believes a comprehensive electronic Health Record Sharing System can play an important role to reduce medication errors and adverse drug reactions and improve patients care.

For pharmaceutical care, it is definitely beneficial for pharmacists to gain access to the patient's medication profile, adverse reactions and allergies, the diagnosis and diseases of the patient and the laboratory tests results. It would enable the pharmacist to perform medication reconciliation and to assess if the medications taken are safe and appropriate for the patient.

The electronic health records of the patient should be owned by the patient himself and should be downloaded and available upon request by the patient. It should enable the patient and healthcare providers to review the medication records, treatment & procedures provided, the laboratory and radiology results for the patient even if the patient wishes to consult the healthcare providers in other countries.

In allowing a healthcare provider to access the e records of a patient, the consent process must be simple and easily accessible, in particular for emergency situations.

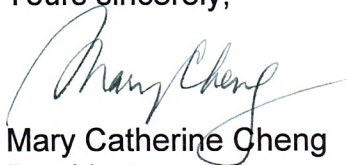
Whilst we support that the data in the eHR Sharing System should be available for disease surveillance and public health research, they should also be readily accessible for drug safety research. It is imperative that

government supports drug safety research and allow the eHR Sharing System to be used for such purposes. Many healthcare databases in the EU [3] and North America [4] have been made available for medicines research to improve drug safety.

References:

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Yours sincerely,



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President

The Pharmaceutical Society of Hong Kong