

Introduction

Radiology Image Sharing-Why??

- Digital radiology images are essential medical data
- Diagnostic information from one imaging exam is often used by multiple care providers
- Availability of radiology exam records → Improve the quality of interpretation
- Reduce radiation exposure and avoid exam duplication







Current Situation in Hong Kong



Hospital Authority (HA) experience on Radiology Image Sharing

- Radi Image Sharing Pilot (since 2009)
- Stage 1 Electronic Health Record (eHR) Project
- Established electronic interfaces between public and private hospitals/ radiology centres
- HA referred patients to private institutions for radiological investigations





2. Improve Data Integrity in Patient Record

3. Trial on technical readiness of private institutions

1. Shorten waiting time for radiology investigations



Radiology Image Sharing Pilot

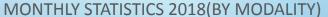


4. Gained practical experiences in future implementation





Latest Statistics (Monthly statistics 2018)





Month



Radi Image Sharing Pilot

Private sectors joined Radi Image Sharing Pilot

No. of private hospitals	11
No. or radiology groups/centres	20
Total	31

Radiology Image Sharing Pilot statistics (as at June 2019)

Total no. of radiology studies received	406,122
Total no. of radiology image received	199,287,951

Benefits of Radi Image Sharing Pilot

- Provide choices for patients
- Enhance radiology service for patients
- Reduce pressure on public radiology service
- Enhance Public Private Partnership









Radiology Image Sharing Pilot







Future Development of Radiology Image Sharing in Hong Kong



eHR Stage 2 development (2017-2021)

- Radiological Images (roll out in 2021)
- Chinese Medicine
- Patient Portal and Sharing Restriction



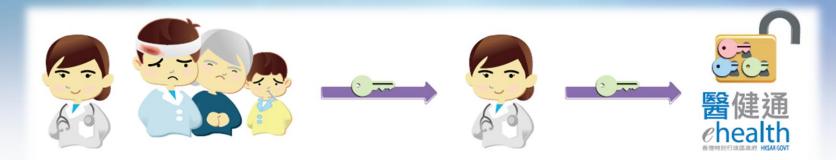


Project Scopes

Stage 2 eHR Radiology Image Sharing

- Allow radiology images sharing among healthcare providers (HCPs)
- Allow images upload via image gateway, image storage in Electronic Health Record Sharing System (eHRSS) repository and image viewing through eHRSS image browser

Prerequisites for data sharing for eHRSS



- 1 HCP & patient join eHRSS
- Patient gives consent to HCP to access his / her record
- 3 HCP can access and contribute to patient's eHR



Major components of eHR Radi Image Sharing

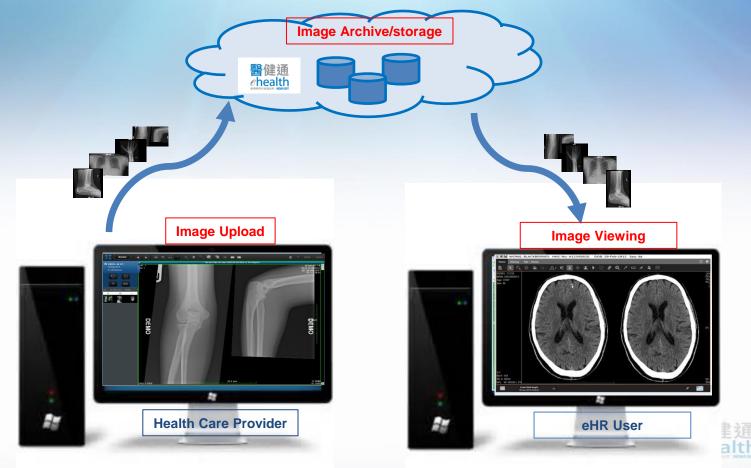




Image Upload

Radi Image Sharing Pilot: Only the referred case is sent to HA



 eHR Radi Image Sharing: All cases will be sent to eHRSS (include HA referred case)

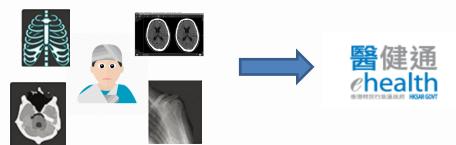




Image Upload

- Sharable radiology modalities for images
 - √ 10 modalities

CT	MRI
Ultrasound	PET-CT
Nuclear Medicine	X Ray
Angiographic Examination	Fluoroscopy
Interventional Radiology (IR)	Breast Imaging (BI)

- Image quality
 - ✓ Image upload from HCP and viewing in browser: Lossless images
 - ✓ Standard for sharing (DICOM for images)



Image Storage

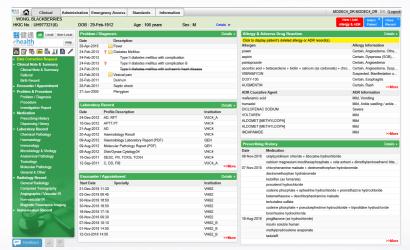
- Centralized Model
 - All HCPs image stored in eHRSS
- Image stored centrally for a simple and quick access response
- Assure image availability/readiness
- Facilitate interface



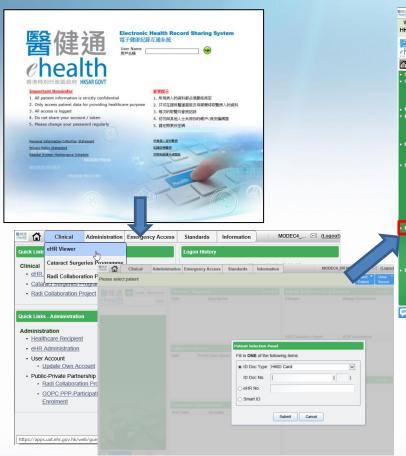
Image Viewing

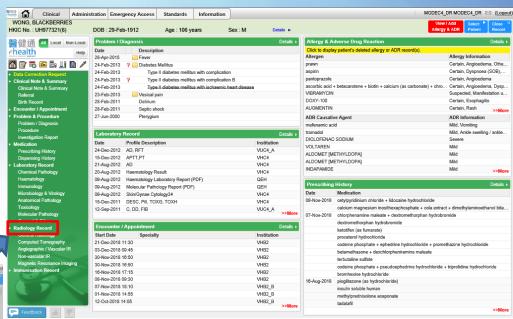
 Radi Image Sharing Pilot: Only HA users can view Radi exam from private sectors

 For eHR Radi image sharing: Public and private clinical users can view others' radiology exam data in eHRSS



To View Radiology Images in eHR Viewer

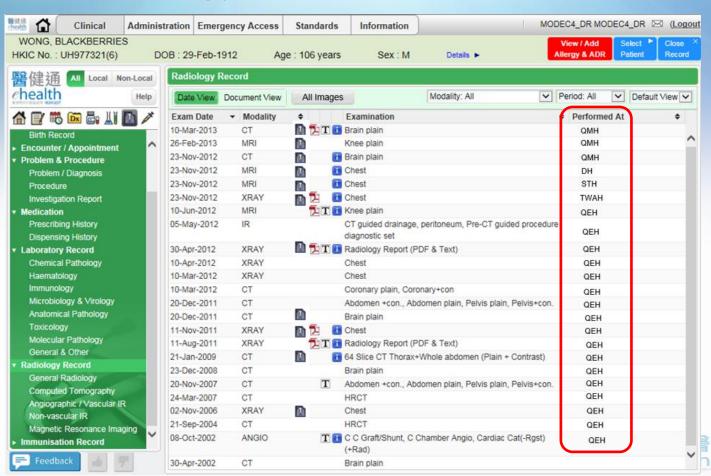




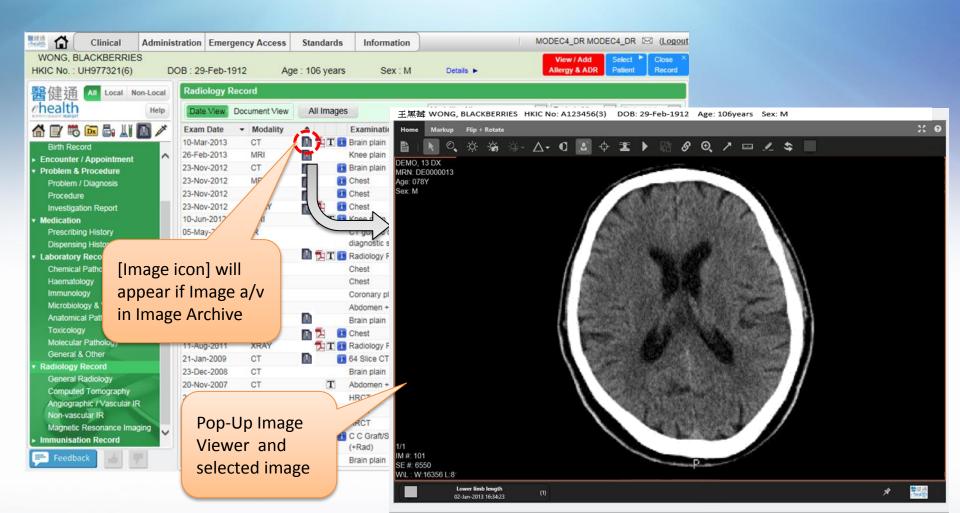




Radiology Record in eHR Viewer







In dual monitor setting...





• User can drag image viewer to secondary monitor (if available)





Key Challenges

- 1. Image archive consideration due to large storage size in eHRSS
- Compliance with eHR standard (e.g. eHR number, Accession Number format)
- 3. Migration of radiology institutions from Radi Image Sharing pilot
- 4. Software and hardware compatibility
- 5. Advancement in new technology in radiology image





Way Forward

- Centralize storage of recent 3 years lossless images
- Strictly follow report & Image data requirements (DICOM conformance, accession no. format)
- Data Compliance testing to ensure eHR standard
- Continuous engagement with stakeholders and healthcare providers

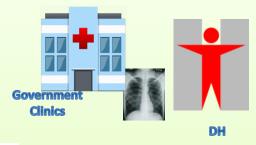




eHR Radiology Image Sharing (Multiple way of sharing radiology Images)











- Avoid repeated scanning
- Timely access to images
- Facilitate clinical decision









References

- Sodickson A, Opraseuth J, Ledbetter S. Outside imaging in emergency department transfer patients: CD import reduces rates of subsequent imaging utilization.
 Radiology 2011; 260:408–413.
- The Royal College of Radiologists (2016)."It's good to share: medical image and report exchange between UK health service providers"
- Sandberg JC, Ge Y, Nguyen HT, et al. Insight into the sharing of medical images: physician, other health care providers, and staff experience in a variety of medical settings. Appl Clin Inform 2012;3:475-87.



Chank you



