

Interoperable Laboratory Data for eHealth Record in Hong Kong

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In the development of electronic health records (eHR) in Hong Kong, there is a compelling need to establish health information standards for clinical data interchange, where it is especially important for laboratory data. Interoperability of laboratory data allow the test results can be shared and reused among different health care parties, which it may have a significant impact on translational medicine. With sharable and interoperable laboratory data, we may reduce medical errors, reduce unnecessary laboratory testing, and improve quality and efficiency of health care. However, most laboratories use their local test codes to capture and store laboratory results. A common and recognized standard is a must for sharable and interoperable laboratory results. For laboratory data in eHR, we adopt LOINC (Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes) for laboratory tests, and the SNOMED CT (Systematized Nomenclature Of Medicine Clinical Terms) for micro-organisms and pathological diagnosis, as one of the recognized terminology standards.

In the presentation, we'll share our experience of laboratory data standardization in the Hong Kong Hospital Authority, the adopted laboratory data standards, and proposed laboratory report models for general, microbiology and anatomical pathology laboratory. We'll also describe some preparation works being done for the development of eHR on laboratory data in Hong Kong.

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