National eHealth Policy of Sri Lanka (DRAFT)

Version 1.6.0

Drafted by the National eHealth Technical Committee

Under the direction of the National eHealth Steering Committee

Ministry of Heath - Sri Lanka

The National eHealth Policy of Sri Lanka is aimed at guiding the implementation of Information and Communication Technology solutions in the healthcare sector.

Vision

To streamline the adoption and use of ICT in the Healthcare Sector of Sri Lanka.

Mission

To adopt ICT solutions appropriately in the healthcare sector of Sri Lanka to improve the quality, efficiency, patient safety, and cost effectiveness of health care thus contributing to achieve the goals set out in the National Health Policy.

Goals

1. Architectural Model for the National Health Information System

State healthcare organizations should comply with the recommended common eHealth architecture of the Health Information Management System to ensure interoperability, efficiency, security, responsiveness and availability.

2. ICT Management

The focal point for all eHealth activities within the country will be the Management Development and Planning Unit of the Ministry of Health/ Department of Health Services. This unit shall oversee and streamline all eHealth activities in Sri Lanka.

Procurement and Contracts related to software and hardware and their management must be done in accordance with government procurement guidelines.

Healthcare organizations must strive to increase the IT literacy of their staff and also to identify and build a skilled workforce in order to carryout eHealth activities.

3. Networking and Connectivity

State healthcare institutions shall be connected using a dedicated network, allowing them to work collaboratively. Staff of these institutions must be allowed to exchange information in an effective manner using this network where applicable.

4. Communication Interface

Health web portal shall provide links to authenticated websites and State Healthcare Sector websites shall be interoperable and be optimized for accessibility and participation of users.

5. Ethics, Privacy, Confidentiality and Security of Information

Measures shall be taken to ensure confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information and integrity of data by providing physical, logical and procedural security measures.

6. Data standards

eHealth systems must comply with the recommended common electronic data standards to ensure interoperability.

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Standards and Guideline to achieve the above mentioned goals are available in the National eHealth Standards and Guidelines document.