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For Immediate Release**

NEWS RELEASE

CGH Achieves Global Benchmark for Advanced Hospital IT To Improve Patient Care

Singapore, October 16, 2013 – HIMSS Analytics Asia Pacific announced today that Changi General Hospital (CGH) has achieved HIMSS EMRAM Stage 6, an international benchmark for the use of advanced IT to improve patient care.

The HIMSS Electronic Medical Record Adoption Model (EMRAM) is a global standard that measures the use of technology to transform healthcare to improve patient safety, care quality and efficiency. Stage 6, on a scale of 0 to 7, indicates significant IT capabilities.

The achievement ranks CGH and Integrated Health Information Systems (IHIS) among hospitals with the most advanced clinical technologies worldwide. IHIS, the Health Ministry's IT arm, manages IT systems at all public healthcare institutions, and was pivotal to CGH's achieving the benchmark.

The General Manager of HIMSS Analytics Asia Pacific & Middle East, Mr Steven Yeo, said: "At Q3 2013 only 2.5 per cent of 613 hospitals in Asia Pacific tracked by HIMSS have Stage 6 or 7 capabilities. Across US, Canada, Europe, Middle East and Asia Pacific, just 8.5 per cent of over 8,300 hospitals tracked by HIMSS have achieved these benchmarks.

"Singapore continues to have the highest number of public hospitals with HIMSS Stage 6 in Asia Pacific."

In 2011, Singapore's KK Women's and Children's Hospital, National University Hospital, Singapore General Hospital and Tan Tock Seng Hospital became the first public hospitals in Asia Pacific to achieve the benchmark.

Mr Yeo added: "HIMSS Stage 6 is an outstanding achievement that recognises CGH and IHIS' exemplary efforts and commitment to harnessing technology to provide patient-centric and cost-effective care."

CGH Chief Executive Officer, Dr Lee Chien Earn, said: "IT is an essential component of healthcare, enabling simple administrative tasks to complex medical procedures. This award is a testament to the hard work and creativity of our staff and partners to come up with

innovative processes and solutions to derive the optimal benefit in terms of care outcomes, productivity and staff satisfaction from our investment in IT.”

He added: “In CGH our aim is to transform the way we work and enhance the human touch by enabling healthcare professionals and providers to deliver safer, better and more personalised care through the wise use of IT.”

IHiS Chief Executive Officer, Dr Chong Yoke Sin, said: “In working towards Stage 6, CGH and IHiS staff also explored creative solutions to significantly improve clinical efficiencies.

“For example, CGH is one of the region’s first to deploy QR code technology instead of barcodes in its medication management process. This allows more information to be stored and scanned in labels, and thus more checks to ensure patient safety.”

QR codes can hold several hundred times the information in conventional barcodes vertically and horizontally. They can also be scanned more quickly and be printed on narrow surfaces.

Dr Chong added: “The HIMSS global benchmark highlights our hospitals’ focused efforts to harness IT to overcome Singapore’s healthcare challenges. IT is being used to transform clinical processes and maximise staff productivity to provide quality and affordable care to our increasing numbers of elderly ill.”

“Today, IHiS has integrated IT systems at all public hospitals, specialty centres and polyclinics. Doctors and healthcare staff directly enter electronic orders into computers, access instantly patients’ medical records across institutions, and view radiology images and lab test results immediately when they are known.

“We are also expanding the advanced IT environment beyond the hospital walls to provide tele-health solutions at community facilities, nursing homes, and patients’ homes. These include doctor tele-consultations, and healthcare staff monitoring and guiding patients through remote monitoring devices, tele-care hubs and mobile applications.”

HIMSS EMRAM is an eight-stage (0 to 7) process that allows hospitals to analyse their level of electronic medical record (EMR) adoption, and track their progress against other healthcare organisations, to reach Stage 7 for full roll-out of an advanced paperless electronic patient record environment. HIMSS developed the methodology in 2005 to evaluate the progress and impact of EMR systems for hospitals.

CGH will receive the HIMSS EMRAM Stage 6 achievement plaque at the inaugural HIMSS Digital Healthcare Week in Singapore on October 21.

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Chinese Names

HIMSS Analytics Asia Pacific &
Middle East General Manager, Mr
Steven Yeo

HIMSS Analytics 亚太和中东区总经理,
杨裕华

Changi General Hospital CEO,
Dr Lee Chien Earn

樟宜综合医院行政总裁,
李建恩医生

Integrated Health Information Systems
(IHIS) CEO, Dr Chong Yoke Sin

综合保健信息系统公司总裁,
钟玉璇博士

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The news release is jointly issued by HIMSS Analytics Asia Pacific, Changi General Hospital (CGH) and Integrated Health Information Systems (IHIS).

For more information, please contact

HIMSS

Vy Tran
DID: 6664 1181
Mobile: 8198 9526
vytran@himss.org

CGH

Robing Ng
DID: 6850 2498
Mobile: 9791 5995
Robing_Ng@cgh.com.sg

IHiS

Ida Lim
DID: 6594 1697
Mobile: 9106 3782
ida.lim@ihis.com.sg

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About HIMSS Analytics Asia Pacific

HIMSS Analytics Asia Pacific collects, analyses and distributes essential health IT data related to products, costs, metrics, trends and purchase decisions. It delivers quality data and analytical expertise to healthcare delivery organisations, IT companies, governmental entities, financial, pharmaceutical and consulting companies. www.himssanalyticsasia.org

HIMSS Analytics Asia Pacific is a part of HIMSS WorldWide, a cause-based global enterprise that produces health IT thought leadership, education, events, market research and media services around the world. Founded in 1961, HIMSS WorldWide encompasses more than 52,000 individuals, of which more than two-thirds work in healthcare provider, governmental and not-for-profit organisations across the globe, plus over 600 corporations and 250 not-for-profit partner organisations, that share the cause of transforming health and healthcare through the best use of IT. HIMSS WorldWide, headquartered in Chicago, serves the global health IT community with additional offices in the US, Europe and Asia.

About Changi General Hospital (CGH)

CGH is a 790-bed hospital in the east recognised for its excellence and compassion in service and patient care. CGH offers a comprehensive range of medical specialties and services, helmed by a highly experienced team of healthcare professionals.

CGH has established itself as a centre of medical excellence with services such as the Integrated Sleep Service, Breast Centre @ Changi, Hepatobiliary Service, Vascular Surgery, Gastroenterology, Endocrinology and the Changi Sports Medicine Centre.

To improve care for patients, CGH has adopted a proactive integrated care approach. Partnering healthcare providers in the east through the Eastern Health Alliance and innovating by adopting new medical technologies and systems, CGH aims to deliver better, seamless and integrated medical services. CGH has been JCI (Joint Commission International) accredited since 2005. www.cgh.com.sg

About Integrated Health Information Systems (IHiS)

IHiS is a healthcare-IT leader, transforming patient care through excellence in technology. Managing highly integrated systems and IT expertise across Singapore's public healthcare sector, its IT professionals support more than 30,000 healthcare staff at all public hospitals, national specialty centres and polyclinics.

IHiS architects and oversees the performance of the clinical, business and healthcare analytics systems of the healthcare institutions. In 2011, it played a key role in four Singapore hospitals becoming the first public institutions in the Asia Pacific region to achieve HIMSS EMRAM Stage 6, an international benchmark for advanced technology used in patient-care.

IHiS is at the forefront of innovation, driving new standards in quality care. www.ihis.com.sg

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