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Policy: Friend or Foe to Global e-Health

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Presentation

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***Global eHealth Research and
Training (GeHRT) Program***
Health Telematics Unit



***Policy – Friend or Foe to
Global e-Health?***

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Purpose

- Compare and contrast e-health policy in Canada and Malaysia
- Identify strengths and weakness
- Propose policy directions and options

'Global e-Health' ?

- *“The sustainable global integration of information and communications technologies into the practice of protecting and promoting health across geo-political, socio-economic, cultural, and temporal barriers - including research and education - to facilitate health, public and community health, health systems development, and epidemiology.”*

e-Health Policy Tools

Definition :

“A set of statements, directives, regulations, laws, and judicial interpretations that direct and manage the life cycle of e-health”

Policy Categorisation :

- Level 1 – Regulations and laws governing e-health activity
- Level 2 – Statements, directives, guidelines for e-health
- Level 3 – Evidence of pro-active consideration of e-health
- Level 4 – Broad suggestions of intended direction

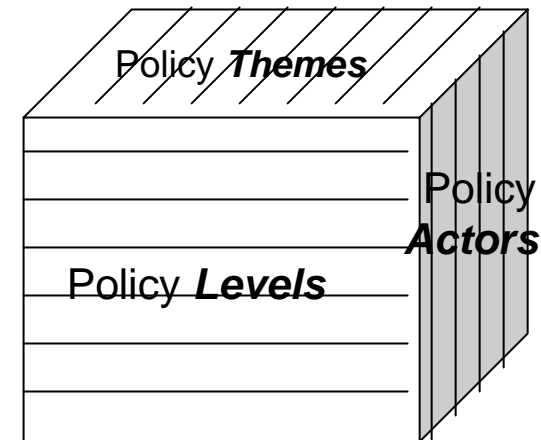
Country categorisation :

a) None, b) Reactive, c) Proactive

HTU's 'e-Health Policy Matrix'

Complexity

- Eight policy **levels**
 - Patient/Provider, Community, Program, Organisation, ...
- Nine policy **themes**
 - Professional, operational, ethical, legal, ...
- Seven policy **actor** categories
 - International bodies, NGO's, Governments, Agencies, ...



Policy - Malaysia

- Country with most public and clearly defined policy statements
- Strategy : Vision 2020 - Multi-Media Super Corridor initiative
- **Telemedicine Act – 1997**
- National Telehealth Policies statements
- Cyberlaws :
 - Digital Signatures Act
 - Computer Crimes Act
 - Copyright amendment Act
 - **Telemedicine Act**
 - Multimedia & Communications Act
 - Personal Data Protection Act



Policy - Malaysia



MACRO Telehealth Policies :

- **Teleconsultation**
- **Continuous Medical Education**
- **Mass Customised Personalised Health Information System**
- **Life Health Record and Life Health Plan**

Policy - Canada

- Discrepant priorities amongst policy levels
 - Focused – EPR, Interoperability standards
 - Unfocussed – Reimbursement
- Discrepant priorities amongst actors (public, private, professional)
 - Focused – CCHSA – accreditation issues
 - Unfocussed – Professional bodies – e.g. licensing



Policy - Canada



- Laws – coincidental to e-health
 - e.g. PIPEDA
- Healthcare - nationally ‘guided’, but implemented by provinces and territories
- e-Health implementation policy will be developed at the P/T level
 - **Issues with ‘Global e-Health’**

Summary

● Malaysia

- e-Health
 - Strategic issue
 - Long-term Plan clear
- e-Health Policy
 - Several Laws
 - Many Regulations
 - Integrated
 - Comprehensive
 - **Potentially restrictive**

● Canada

- e-Health
 - Strategic issue
 - **Long-term Plan clear ?**
- e-Health Policy
 - **'Coincidental' laws**
 - **Few Regulations**
 - **Not integrated**
 - Comprehensive
 - **Too little guidance**

Conclusion

- ***Policy – Friend or Foe to Global e-Health?***
Both !!
- **Policy Directions**
 - Awareness ➡ Education ➡ Coordination
- **Policy Options**
 - Reactive policy development to ‘catch up’
 - Proactive policy development to plan for future needs