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**Title** : SingHealth pilots system to allow patients, doctors to access medical records online  
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SINGAPORE : Imagine being able to access your medical records online, and for free - that is the promise of a system being developed by healthcare group SingHealth and telco SingTel, along with software company HSAGlobal.

The Community Care Management System will allow doctors and community caregivers to monitor and track patients' progress, after they have left the hospital. All they will need is a PDA or laptop.

Patients will also be able to receive test results, and upload information such as blood sugar levels for clinical assessment, so that healthcare providers can be alerted sooner to any abnormal results.

The system is aimed at improving the management of chronic illnesses.

Since November 2007, the Singapore General Hospital has been conducting a pilot test on 200 diabetes patients.

The pilot also involved four inpatient wards, four specialist outpatients clinics, two SingHealth polyclinics and community caregivers.

SingHealth hopes to roll out the programme to all its patients by year-end.

The system will be fully hosted and managed by SingTel, while the healthcare provider will pay for the use of the system. Patients will be able to access the system for free.

Associate Professor Lim Swee Hia, director of nursing, SingHealth, said: "This is a way where we can capture our patients who have defaulted in their follow-up treatments. Because if they do not come for their check-up, next thing you know they will end up in our emergency department, in a more serious condition." - CNA/ms

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