THE ADEQUACY OF TELEMEDICINE ACT RELATING TO LIABILITY OF TELEMEDICINE PRACTITIONERS IN MALAYSIA: A COMPARATIVE STUDY WITH TELEMEDICINE LAW OF CALIFORNIA, USA.

By

Nurul Fatihah Binti Norull Bahri Saiful Abadi (2009779809) Nurul Hafizah Binti Mohd Zaki (2009754315) Nurul Syahirah Binti Azman (2009398225) Wan Fatin Najah Binti Wan Ismail (2009732275)

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Bachelor in Legal Studies (Hons)

Universiti Technologi MARA Faculty of Law

June 2012

The students/ authors confirm that the work submitted is their own and that appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the work of others.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Allah, The beneficent, The Merciful...

This research project has been carried out by a team which has included Nurul Fatihah Binti Norull Bahri Saiful Abadi, Nurul Hafizah Binti Mohd Zaki, Nurul Syahirah Binti Azman, and Wan Fatin Najah Binti Wan Ismail. Many people have been contributed to our research. First and foremost, our deepest gratitude is forwarded to God whose guidance, help and grace is instrumental in making the finalization of this project paper a reality. We would like to thank our lovely lecturer PM Sue Valquis bt. Mashhor for her knowledge and guidance in helping us to complete this research. Her guidance and assistance shall never be forgotten.

In addition, we also wish to acknowledge the assistance of few other people in helping us completing this project paper. We are very grateful to our family and friends for their endless support and encouragement. Their support has made it possible for us to endure any difficulty that we faced along the completion of our work. Our thanks also address to the University Technology MARA library's staff for their friendliness and kindness.

We hope that this research will be useful for any other researchers who have intention to pursue this area of research or any other research which is connected in one way or another with our proposal.

ABSTRACT

Telemedicine is newly practiced in Malaysia. This research focuses on the adequacy of Telemedicine law in Malaysia in governing liability of telemedicine practitioners. For this purpose, the relevant provisions in the Malaysian Telemedicine Act 1997 are reviewed. There are loopholes in the existing law that can be improved in order for the Government to achieve efficacy in practicing telemedicine. The new hack of proper procedures and approaches greatly affect the legal implications on the liability of telemedicine practitioners. To improve the law in Malaysia, a comparative analysis of the study is made with the Telemedicine Law in the California, USA. The research proposed the amendment of the Malaysian Telemedicine Act 1997.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgement			
Abstract Content			
List of Cases			
List	or Cases		vii
CHA	APTER (ONE: INTRODUCTION	
1.0	Introduc	ction	1
1.1	Backgro	ound	1
1.2	_	h Question	4
1.3	Researc	h Objectives	4
1.4	Researc	h Methodology	4
1.5	Scope		5
1.6		ion of Research	6
1.7	_	ance of Study	6
1.8		re Review	6
	1.8.1	A	6
		Legal Framework	8
1.0	1.8.3		14
1.9		of the Structure of the Paper	16
1.10	Conclus	SION	16
		ΓWO: TELEMEDICINE AND ITS PRACTICE IN THE U D MALAYSIA	NITEI
2.0	Introd	uction	17
2.1		opment of Information Technology (IT) and	
		redicine Technology	17
	2.1.1	e ,	18
	2.1.2	Store and Forward	18
	2.1.3	Interactive Television	19
2.2	Telem	edicine Practice and Its Policy in the State of California, USA	21
	2.2.1	Background	21
	2.2.2	California Telemedicine and e-Health Center (CTEC)	22
	2.2.3		23
		2.2.3.1 State Prison	23
		2.2.3.2 University of California, Davis	25
		2.2.3.3 Blue Cross in California	26 26
2.3	Telemedicine Practice and Its Policy in Malaysia		
	2.3.1	Background	26
	2.3.2	Policy of Malaysia's Ministry of Health on Telemedicine	27
	2.3.3	Hospital Practicing Telemedicine	31
2.4	0 1	2.3.3.1 Selayang Hospital	31
2.4	Concl	usion	35

CHAPTER THREE: LAW GOVERNING TELEMEDICINE IN MALAYSIA

3.0	Introduction			
3.1	Telemedicine Act 1997			
	3.1.1 Person Who Can Practice Telemedicine	36		
	3.1.2 Practicing Certificate	37		
	3.1.3 Patient's Consent	38		
	3.1.4 Regulations	39		
3.2	Significance of Telemedicine Act	40		
3.3	Medical Act 1971			
	3.3.1 Malaysian Medical Council	40		
3.3.2	Registered Medical Practitioners	41		
3.3.3	Medical Practice Certificate			
3.3.4	Disciplinary Proceedings			
3.4	Significance of Medical Act			
3.5	Malaysian Medical Council's Code of Professional Conduct			
	3.5.1 Confidentiality			
3.6	Significance of the Code	48		
3.7	Computer Crimes Act 1997			
3.8	Significance of the Computer Crimes Act	52		
3.9	Conclusion	52		
CITAL				
CHA	PTER FOUR: TELEMDICINE LAW IN CALIFORNIA			
4.0	Introduction	53		
4.1	Telemedicine Development Act 1996	53		
4.2	The Provisions of Telemedicine Development Act 1996	54		
	4.2.1 Business and Professional Code	63		
	4.2.2 Health and Safety Code	63		
	4.2.3 Insurance Code	64		
	4.2.4 Welfare and Institutions Code	64		
4.3	Telemedicine Malpractice	64		
4.4	Conclusion	70		
CHA	PTER FIVE: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS			
5.0	Introduction	71		
5.1	Findings of the Research	71		
	5.1.1 Registration of Telemedicine Practitioner	71		
	5.1.2 Confidentiality and Code of Ethics	72		
	5.1.3 Patient's Access to Medical Records	72		
	5.1.4 Disciplinary Action	73		
	5.1.5 Criminal Liability	73		
5.2	Recommendations	74		
	5.2.1 Registration of Telemedicine Practitioner by Malaysian			
	Telemedicine Council	74		