Submitted by: Ontario Chamber of Commerce

I've included links below to a few reports we wrote in 2016 that address many of the questions in the discussion paper. Largely, the problem is a lack of alignment between policy and regulations. Government purports to want improved value for money, to offer the most advanced care, to support Ontario's innovative health science sector, and to put patients at the centre of the health care system. However, budget siloes, procurement restrictions, a lack of trust between buyers and vendors, and an outdated regulatory regime all conspire to ensure that none of those goals are achievable.

With respect to improving procurement, this means adopting value-based procurement approaches including commissioning, as opposed to the prescriptive RFP approach used now. Joint-solutioning for complex problems (especially those that require digital solutions) must become the norm. See our report:
http://occ.ca/wp-content/uploads/REPORT_Prescription-for-Partnership-1.pdf

Next, the government has many tools at its disposal to improve technology adoption, particularly from Ontario companies (many of which are SMEs). It needs to be freed to use those tools. See the report:
http://occ.ca/wp-content/uploads/OCC-HTI-Adopting-Our-Advantage-Report.pdf

Thirdly, improved coordination through better use of analytics is critical within the public system, but similar coordination with private payers is also important, especially if we are to be truly patient-centric. See the report: https://occ.ca/wp-content/uploads/Care-in-our-Control_Report-1.pdf

We ran an event in 2017 that revealed some valuable high-level commentary on digital health issues, which you can find here:
https://occ.ca/wp-content/uploads/Driving-Innovation-Dec-7-1.pdf

Finally, we wrote a letter this summer regarding digital health in the COVID-19 context, including what temporary measures undertaken by the MOH should be made permanent. See here: https://occ.ca/wp-content/uploads/Digital-health-interoperability.pdf