



DEPARTMENT	1501 Capitol Ave., Suite 71.6101	PHONE 916.440.7594	Roberta Lawson
OF HEALTH	P.O. Box 997413, MS 7003	FAX 916.440.7595	RDH, MPH
SERVICES	Sacramento, CA 95899-7413	rlawson1@dhs.ca.gov	<i>Executive Administrator</i>

October 26, 2006

Laura E. Lund, M.A.
Chief, HIV/AIDS Case Registry Section
California Department of Health Services
Office of AIDS, HIV/AIDS Case Registry Section
MS 7700
PO Box 997426
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Lund:

I am writing to you to register significant concerns regarding portions of the draft HIV names reporting regulations that you sent out via e-mail on October 16, 2006. We believe that they should be changed prior to the draft becoming public.

It is important to encourage reporting and to make it easier for physicians and laboratories to report to the local health officers. In an environment where there are recommendations for expanded HIV screening, this is an opportunity to simplify the reporting requirements in order to have a better surveillance system. Below are suggestions that I believe would preserve the Office of AIDS' policy and still allow flexibility for the local jurisdiction.

A. change the wording of paragraph (1) on page 22 to read as follows:

(1) All reports containing personal information, including HIV/AIDS Case Reports shall be sent in a manner that preserves patient confidentiality. It is preferable if they are sent by courier service, US Postal Service Express or Registered mail, or other traceable mail or person to person transfer with the local Health Officer or his or her designee.

B. Remove paragraph 2 from page 22 completely.

~~(2) The healthcare provider shall not submit reports containing personal information to the local health officer or his or her designee by electronic facsimile transmission or by electronic mail or by non-traceable mail~~

These changes may be sufficient to give the local jurisdictions the flexibility they need. Similar wording could be used on page 26 with reference to laboratory reporting, eliminating the prohibitions while strongly advocating for reporting in the format you prefer.

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I look forward to hearing your thoughts on these suggestions. We would prefer to resolve our differences before the draft regulations become public.

Sincerely,

(Original signed by:)

Glennah Trochet M.D.
President, CCLHO