

UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST

There have been no changes in applicable laws or to the effect of the regulations from the laws and effects described in the Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview as published in the Notice of Emergency Rulemaking, except for the following modifications:

The Department is amending Title 17, California Code of Regulations (17 CCR) Section 6300.15 to provide an expanded definition of genetic counseling to include additional functions performed by genetic counselors.

The Department is amending 17 CCR Section 6301.3 to refer to the provisions in the Health and Safety Code relating to the expiration of temporary genetic counselor licenses following failure of the certification examination. Health and Safety Code Section 124982 provides that temporary genetic counselor licenses are valid for two years but expire upon issuance of a genetic counselor license, thirty days following notification of the Department of failure of the certification examination, or upon the expiration date on the temporary license. Temporary licenses may also be revoked by the Department in certain circumstances. The Department is also amending Section 6303.1 to remove language relating to revocation of temporary licenses following failure of the certification examination as it is necessary to be consistent with the statute. The reference citations in Sections 6303.1 and 6303.3 are also being amended to cite California Codes in alphabetical order, resulting in non-substantive changes.

The Department is amending 17 CCR Section 6301.9 to delete the terms “genetic intern” and “genetics assistant” so that the use of these titles is not restricted to licensed genetic counselors. The title “genetic consultant” is being added as a title that only licensed genetic counselors may use. Health and Safety Code Section 124981 includes a title protection provision for genetic counselors licensed by the Department.

Changes were proposed to the regulation text in Sections 6300.15, 6301.3, 6301.9, and 6303.1 after the close of the 45-Day public comment period. These changes were noticed for a 15-Day Availability period, beginning May 22, 2013, and ending on June 6, 2013. In response to additional comments, an amendment to the proposed changes in Section 6300.15 to remove an ambiguity concerning the function of genetic counselors in identifying and coordinating genetic laboratory tests was subsequently noticed for a Second 15-Day Availability period, beginning July 20, 2013, and ending August 5, 2013, for which no comments were received.