

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 14, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 30, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 446

Introduced by Assembly Member Mitchell

February 19, 2013

An act to amend Sections 120990 and 123148 of, and to add Section 120991 to, the Health and Safety Code, relating to HIV testing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 446, as amended, Mitchell. HIV testing.

Existing law requires a medical care provider, prior to ordering an HIV test, to, among other things, provide information about the test, inform the patient that there are numerous treatment options available for a patient who tests positive for HIV, and inform the patient that a person who tests negative for HIV should continue to be routinely tested. Existing law, with specified exceptions, requires a written statement documenting the test subject's informed consent prior to the performance of an HIV test.

This bill would require that the medical care provider *or the person who administers the test* also provide a patient with information about risk reduction strategies and with specified information after the test results are received. The bill would require informed consent, as specified, either orally or in writing, and would require the person administering the test to record the informed consent in the person's medical record. ~~The bill would require an HIV test to be performed for each draw of blood that is ordered for a patient in a public health clinic or an urgent care center, provided that the patient has consented and~~

would require the results of the HIV test to be given to the patient before he or she leave the facility unless he or she leaves before being released.

This bill would require every patient who has blood drawn at a primary care clinic, as defined, who is between 18 and 65 years of age and who has consented to the test to be offered an HIV test and would specify the manner in which the results of that test are provided.

Existing law regulates the disclosure of test results for HIV and other diseases. Existing law prohibits the disclosure of HIV test results by Internet posting or other electronic means unless the patient requests the disclosure, the healthcare professional deems it appropriate, and the health care professional has first discussed the results in person or over the phone.

This bill would authorize disclosure of HIV test results by Internet posting or other electronic means if the result is posted on a secure Internet Web site and can only be viewed with the use of a secure personal identification number provided to the patient at the time of testing.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 120990 of the Health and Safety Code
- 2 is amended to read:
- 3 120990. (a) Prior to ordering a test that identifies infection of
- 4 a patient with HIV, a medical care provider shall inform the patient
- 5 that the test is planned, provide information about the test, inform
- 6 the patient that there are numerous treatment options and risk
- 7 reduction strategies available for a patient who tests positive for
- 8 HIV, and advise the patient that he or she has the right to decline
- 9 the test. If a patient declines the test, the medical care provider
- 10 shall note that fact in the patient’s medical file.
- 11 (b) Subdivision (a) does not apply when a person independently
- 12 requests an HIV test from a medical care provider, ~~public health~~
- 13 ~~clinic~~ *a primary care clinic as defined in subdivision (a) of Section*
- 14 *1204 or any clinic specified in subdivision (g), (h), or (j) of Section*
- 15 *1206, laboratory, or HIV counseling and testing site that employs*
- 16 *a trained HIV counselor pursuant to Section 120917.*
- 17 (c) Except as provided in subdivision (a), a person shall not
- 18 administer a test for HIV infection unless the person being tested

1 or his or her parent, guardian, conservator, or other person specified
2 in Section 121020 has provided informed consent for the
3 performance of the test. Informed consent may be provided orally
4 or in writing, but the person administering the test shall maintain
5 documentation of consent, whether obtained orally or in writing,
6 in the client’s medical record. This consent requirement does not
7 apply to a test performed at an alternative site pursuant to Section
8 120890 or 120895. This section does not authorize a person to
9 administer a test for HIV unless that person is otherwise lawfully
10 permitted to administer an HIV test.

11 (d) Nothing in this section shall preclude a medical examiner
12 or other physician from ordering or performing a test to detect
13 HIV on a cadaver when an autopsy is performed or body parts are
14 donated pursuant to the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (Chapter
15 3.5 (commencing with Section 7150) of Part 1 of Division 7).

16 (e) (1) *The requirements of subdivision (c) do not apply when*
17 *blood is tested as part of a scientific investigation conducted either*
18 *by a medical researcher operating under the approval of an*
19 *institutional review board or by the department, in accordance*
20 *with a protocol for unlinked testing.*

21 (2) *For purposes of this subdivision, “unlinked testing” means*
22 *blood samples that are obtained anonymously, or that have the*
23 *name or identifying information of the individual who provided*
24 *the sample removed in a manner that prevents the test results from*
25 *ever being linked to the particular individual who participated in*
26 *the research or study.*

27 (e)

28 (f) Nothing in this section permits a person to unlawfully
29 disclose an individual’s HIV status, or to otherwise violate
30 provisions of Section 54 of the Civil Code, the Americans With
31 Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336), or the California
32 Fair Employment and Housing Act (Part 2.8 (commencing with
33 Section 12900) of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code),
34 which prohibit discrimination against individuals who are living
35 with HIV, or who test positive for HIV, or are presumed to be
36 HIV-positive.

37 (f)

38 (g) After the results of a test performed pursuant to this section
39 have been received, the medical care provider *or the person who*
40 *administers the test* shall ensure that the patient receives timely

1 information and counseling, as appropriate, to explain the results
2 and the implications for the patient's health. If the patient tests
3 positive for HIV infection, the *medical provider or the person*
4 *who adminsters the test* shall inform the patient that there are
5 numerous treatment options available and identify followup testing
6 and care that may be recommended, *including contact information*
7 *for medical and psychological services*. If the patient tests negative
8 for HIV infection and is known to be at high risk for HIV infection,
9 the *medical provider or the person who administers the test* shall
10 advise the patient of the need for periodic retesting, *explain the*
11 *limitations of current testing technology and the current window*
12 *period for verification of results*, and may offer prevention
13 counseling or a referral to prevention counseling.

14 ~~SEC. 2. Section 120991 is added to the Health and Safety Code,~~
15 ~~to read:~~

16 ~~120991. Each draw of blood ordered for a patient in a public~~
17 ~~health clinic or an urgent care center shall be tested for HIV,~~
18 ~~provided that the patient has consented to the HIV test pursuant~~
19 ~~to Section 120990. The public health clinic or urgent care center~~
20 ~~shall provide the test results to the patient before he or she leaves~~
21 ~~the facility, unless the patient leaves the facility prior to being~~
22 ~~released.~~

23 ~~SEC. 2. Section 120991 is added to the Health and Safety Code,~~
24 ~~to read:~~

25 ~~120991. (a) Each patient who has blood drawn at a primary~~
26 ~~care clinic, who is between 18 and 65 years of age, and who has~~
27 ~~consented to the HIV test pursuant to Section 120990 shall be~~
28 ~~offered an HIV test. The primary care clinic shall be in compliance~~
29 ~~with this subdivision if it chooses to test the patient using a rapid~~
30 ~~HIV test. This subdivision shall not apply if the primary care clinic~~
31 ~~has tested the patient for HIV or if the patient has been offered the~~
32 ~~HIV test and declined the test within the previous 12 months. Any~~
33 ~~subsequent testing of a patient who has been tested by the primary~~
34 ~~care clinic shall be consistent with the most recent guidelines~~
35 ~~issued by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention~~
36 ~~and the United States Preventive Services Task Force.~~

37 ~~(b) HIV testing of minors 12 years of age or older shall comply~~
38 ~~with Section 6926 of the Family Code.~~

39 ~~(c) This section shall not prohibit a primary care clinic from~~
40 ~~charging a patient to cover the cost of HIV testing. The primary~~

1 *care clinic shall be deemed to have complied with this section if*
2 *an HIV test is offered.*

3 *(d) A primary care clinic shall attempt to provide test results*
4 *to the patient before he or she leaves the facility. If that is not*
5 *possible, the facility may inform the patient who tests negative for*
6 *HIV by letter or by telephone, and shall inform a patient with a*
7 *positive test result in a manner consistent with state law. However,*
8 *in any case, the primary care clinic shall comply with subdivision*
9 *(g) of Section 120990.*

10 *(e) For purposes of this section, “primary care clinic” means*
11 *a primary care clinic as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 1204*
12 *or subdivision (g), (h), or (i) of Section 1206.*

13 SEC. 3. Section 123148 of the Health and Safety Code is
14 amended to read:

15 123148. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a health care
16 professional at whose request a test is performed shall provide or
17 arrange for the provision of the results of a clinical laboratory test
18 to the patient who is the subject of the test if so requested by the
19 patient, in oral or written form. The results shall be disclosed in
20 plain language and in oral or written form, except the results may
21 be disclosed in electronic form if requested by the patient and if
22 deemed most appropriate by the health care professional who
23 requested the test. The telephone shall not be considered an
24 electronic form of disclosing laboratory results subject to the limits
25 on electronic disclosure of test results for the purpose of this
26 section.

27 (b) (1) Consent of the patient to receive his or her laboratory
28 results by Internet posting or other electronic means shall be
29 obtained in a manner consistent with the requirements of Section
30 56.10 or 56.11 of the Civil Code. In the event that a health care
31 professional arranges for the provision of test results by Internet
32 posting or other electronic manner, the results shall be disclosed
33 to a patient in a reasonable time period, but only after the results
34 have been reviewed by the health care professional. Access to
35 clinical laboratory test results shall be restricted by the use of a
36 secure personal identification number when the results are disclosed
37 to a patient by Internet posting or other electronic manner.

38 (2) Nothing in paragraph (1) shall prohibit direct communication
39 by Internet posting or the use of other electronic means to disclose
40 clinical laboratory test results by a treating health care professional

1 who ordered the test for his or her patient or by a health care
2 professional acting on behalf of, or with the authorization of, the
3 treating health care professional who ordered the test.

4 (c) When a patient requests access to his or her laboratory test
5 results by Internet posting, the health care professional shall advise
6 the patient of any charges that may be assessed directly to the
7 patient or insurer for the service and that the patient may call the
8 health care professional for a more detailed explanation of the
9 laboratory test results when delivered.

10 (d) The electronic disclosure of test results under this section
11 shall be in accordance with any applicable federal law governing
12 privacy and security of electronic personal health records.
13 However, any state statute, if enacted, that governs privacy and
14 security of electronic personal health records, shall apply to test
15 results under this section and shall prevail over federal law if
16 federal law permits.

17 (e) The test results to be reported to the patient pursuant to this
18 section shall be recorded in the patient's medical record, and shall
19 be reported to the patient within a reasonable time period after the
20 test results are received at the offices of the health care professional
21 who requested the test.

22 (f) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), unless the patient requests
23 the disclosure, the health care professional deems this disclosure
24 as an appropriate means, and a health care professional has first
25 discussed in person, by telephone, or by any other means of oral
26 communication, the test results with the patient, in compliance
27 with any other applicable laws, none of the following clinical
28 laboratory test results and any other related results shall be
29 disclosed to a patient by Internet posting or other electronic means:

30 (1) HIV antibody test, unless the test result is posted on a secure
31 Internet Web site and can only be viewed with the use of a secure
32 personal identification number provided to the patient at the time
33 of testing. *The test result shall be posted only if there is no link to*
34 *any information that identifies the subject of the test.*

35 (2) Presence of antigens indicating a hepatitis infection.

36 (3) Abusing the use of drugs.

37 (4) Test results related to routinely processed tissues, including
38 skin biopsies, Pap smear tests, products of conception, and bone
39 marrow aspirations for morphological evaluation, if they reveal a
40 malignancy.

1 (g) Patient identifiable test results and health information that
2 have been provided under this section shall not be used for any
3 commercial purpose without the consent of the patient, obtained
4 in a manner consistent with the requirements of Section 56.11 of
5 the Civil Code. In no event shall patient identifiable HIV-related
6 test results and health information disclosed in this section be used
7 in violation of subdivision (f) of Section 120980.

8 (h) Any third party to whom laboratory test results are disclosed
9 pursuant to this section shall be deemed a provider of
10 administrative services, as that term is used in paragraph (3) of
11 subdivision (c) of Section 56.10 of the Civil Code, and shall be
12 subject to all limitations and penalties applicable to that section.

13 (i) A patient may not be required to pay any cost, or be charged
14 any fee, for electing to receive his or her laboratory results in any
15 manner other than by Internet posting or other electronic form.

16 (j) A patient or his or her physician may revoke any consent
17 provided under this section at any time and without penalty, except
18 to the extent that action has been taken in reliance on that consent.