



TO: Health Providers and Medical Laboratories in San Francisco

RE: New Requirements for Sexually Transmitted Disease Reporting

DATE: August 15, 2004

Over the past few years San Francisco has experienced a resurgence of syphilis and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). State law requires providers to report syphilis, chlamydia, gonorrhea, pelvic inflammatory disease and chancroid to the local health department (CA Health and Safety Code Division 105, Part 3, Chapter 3, Section 120250 and CA Code of Regulations, Title 17, Section 2500). Syphilis must be reported within one working day, while chlamydia, gonorrhea, pelvic inflammatory disease and chancroid must be reported within seven calendar days.

In 2002, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended reporting of the gender of patient's sex partners for all reportable STDs (CDC Action Memo to HIV/ STD Program Directors, November 15, 2002). This recommended information will enhance the understanding of trends in STD epidemiology and improve prevention strategies.

As of September 1, 2004, we have required that the gender of sex partners in the past 12 months be reported for all reportable STDs—syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, pelvic inflammatory disease and chancroid in residents of San Francisco. The Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR) has been amended to collect this information.

Reporting of STDs does not require patient consent and it is not subject to requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). HIPAA allows disclosure of this information to public health authorities when required by law.

Please find enclosed a copy of the new CMR. The CMR can be downloaded from our website at www.dph.sf.ca.us/PHP/CDCU/cmrmmain.htm or you can request copies to be sent to you by calling 415-554-2830.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jeffrey D. Klausner in black ink.

Jeffrey D. Klausner, MD, MPH
STD Controller

Handwritten signature of Mitchell H. Katz in black ink.

Mitchell H. Katz, MD
Director of Health