



P.O. Box 8506
Redlands, CA 92375

August 27, 2012

Honorable Governor Edmund "Jerry" G. Brown, Jr.
California State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: 916-558-3160

RE: ASSEMBLY BILL 2253: SIGN THIS EXCELLENT BILL, GOOD FOR PATIENT CARE

Dear Governor Brown:

The California Academy of Preventive Medicine urges you to sign AB 2253. We are the state medical specialty society for Preventive Medicine and Public Health physicians.

This bill removes a barrier to good medical practice, by permitting Internet communication by health care professionals to patients of their lab results relating to HIV, hepatitis, cancer, and drug testing results, as an exception to current prohibition of electronic transmission.

We are enthusiastic about the amendment that also clarified that telephone communication between a health care professional and a patient will not be considered as a prohibited electronic communication for communicating such test results. Such language is necessary, because it is common and appropriate practice for a health care professional (including a public health worker) to notify a patient of such results in a confidential telephone call. There should be no possibility that this could be deemed illegal, and this bill will assure that it will not be.

Your signature will finalize an important improvement in current law, and will favorably affect communication between patients and their health care professionals.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Gunzenhauser, MD, MPH
President, CAPM