

PALO ALTO DAILY NEWS

Also serving Menlo Park, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, East Palo Alto, Atherton, Portola Valley, Woodside and Stanford

June 26, 2002

Pap smear bill awaits Davis signature



SIMITIAN

A bill to improve women's access to Pap smear results, written by state Assemblyman Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, has passed the Legislature and is on its way to Gov. Gray Davis for his signature, the assemblyman said yesterday. Assembly Bill 2831 was suggested

by Dr. Paul Tang of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and adds e-mail and Internet postings as options for sharing test results with patients.

"We've all experienced the anxiety that comes from waiting for results of a medical test," Simitian said.

Having Pap smear results available via the Internet is more than just a convenient time saver, Simitian explained. Some patients, such as those who are deaf or hearing impaired, may find that e-mail is the

best and most private means of communication.

In addition, those who travel frequently on business or have busy schedules may find that e-mail is the only way they can be reached.

"Assemblyman Simitian's bill will aid patients in obtaining information about their Pap smear results and allows them to be a partner in their health care with their physician," said Shannon Smith-Crowley of the California Medical Association.

San Mateo County Times

June 26, 2002

Pap smear results Access bill moves on

From Staff Reports

SACRAMENTO – Assemblyman Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, announced Tuesday that Assembly Bill 2831 to improve women’s access to Pap smear results has passed out of the Legislature and is headed to the Governor for signature.

Suggested by Dr. Paul Tang of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, AB 2831 adds e-mail and Internet postings as options for sharing these test results with patients.

“We’ve all experienced the anxiety that comes from waiting for results of a medical test,” Simitian said. “In the vast majority of cases, the results are normal, and there’s no good reason not to use electronic technology to alert us to normal results as quickly as possible. In fact, current law already allows electronic notice of some medical test

results, but not Pap smears. I hope AB 2831 will bring many women faster assurance of normal test results and reduce the anxiety that comes from waiting.”

“Assemblyman Simitian’s bill will aid patients in obtaining information about their Pap smear results and allows them to be a partner in their healthcare with their physician,” said Shannon Smith-Crowley of the California Medical Association.

AS 2831 requires patient consent before using e-mail or the Internet to notify a woman of Pap smear results, and would ultimately be at the discretion of the physician. Notification of test results that indicate malignancies or other sensitive results would not be permissible via e-mail or the Internet.