

**Q.** We have a web site that has been in existence for about 3 years, and have been considering giving patients an option to register with our office through the web site. We will include a brief medical history form to complete. When the patient comes into the office, we would still have them sign the registration form, and obtain a copy of their insurance card for other pre-certification numbers, etc.

I am wondering if anyone has had any experience with this type of Registration system, and if there are any other special HIPAA considerations, more than the privacy rules that we already all know? Our server that would receive and store the information is secure and only my staff would be able to retrieve the information.

**A.** The best place to look for guidance is in the recently released Security rules. Under Section 164.312 you will find a list of the technical safeguards, including the requirement for encryption of PHI. You will need to ensure that your system of registration meets the requirements. Luckily, you have until April 21, 2005 to comply. (Kathy Zeitz, Methodist Health System)