

**URI HIPAA SECURITY POLICY –  
IMPLEMENTATION SPECIFICATION #18B**

<b>Title:</b>	<b>ENCRYPTION</b>	<b>Purpose &amp; Background</b>	See Memo Entitled "HIPAA at URI: Introduction to HIPAA and an Overview of HIPAA Implementation at URI" available online at the URI HIPAA website_
<b>Originator (Responsible Department/ Unit):</b>	<b>URI HIPAA Compliance Oversight Committee</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>05/22/2018</b>
<b>Applies to:</b>	<b>All URI Departments and Units Designated as HIPAA "Covered Components" and "Business Associate Components"</b>	<b>Revised Date(s):</b>	

**Purpose:**

This implementation specification reflects URI’s commitment to appropriately use encryption to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of EPHI transmitted over electronic communications networks.

**Specification:**

Appropriate encryption must be used to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of URI EPHI transmitted over electronic communications networks.

**Procedure:**

URI covered components must consider the following factors at a minimum in determining whether or not encryption must be used when sending specific EPHI over an electronic communications network:

- The sensitivity of EPHI
- The risks of EPHI
- The expected impact to URI functionality and work flow if the EPHI is encrypted
- Alternative methods available to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of the EPHI

**HIPAA REGULATORY REFERENCE:** 45 CFR 164.312(e)(2)(ii)

**HIPAA SECURITY REGULATION IMPLEMENTATION SPECIFICATION LANGUAGE:** *"Implement a mechanism to encrypt EPHI whenever deemed appropriate."*