

How to start incorporating photographs into your preassessments - FAQ

What equipment and software did your department use to implement this?

iPad Mini – Mobile device for taking pictures (There is an advantage to getting iPhones)
-<http://www.apple.com/shop/buy-ipad/ipad-mini-2>

EPIC Canto – Software for the iPad to upload pictures into EPIC
-<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/epic-canto/id395395172?mt=8>

Tryten iPad Lock & Stand – A way to secure the device in clinic
-<https://www.tryten.com/ipad-lock-and-stand.html>

Verso Clip Light – Light source for visualizing uvula (There may be better alternates)
- http://www.amazon.com/Reading-Light-Black-E-Reader-light/dp/B007ZYGDLY/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1444915413&sr=8-1&keywords=Verso+Clip+Light

What about maintaining patient privacy and being HIPAA compliant?

Canto is completely secure and confidential. All data transmitted to and from the server are encrypted using SSL. EPIC Canto provides practitioner's secure and portable access to patient charts and has the ability to take pictures and upload them directly into the patient's electronic medical record in EPIC. No information is stored on the mobile devices themselves. The images are labeled and assigned to an event just after taking the photograph. When performing surgical preassessments on patients, our staff uploads the images into the exam portion of the preassessment note.

How have patients responded to having their picture taken?

Patient response has been favorable the vast majority of the time. We have not received any complaints from patients about the process and they seem to be very amenable to the process. No direct feedback has been solicited, but most seem to be excited to moving to a more modernized form of assessment.

Written consent in general for photographs necessary for medical treatment is obtained from patients when they come to our presurgical clinic and sign the consent to treatment. Verbal consent is given by the patients in clinic after patients are educated on how the pictures are used by their anesthesiologists. Some patients have refused to have their photograph taken, and we have respected their wishes. Some patients who are coming for additional procedures already have their photographs in the medical record, and we are able to use their older photographs. Please investigate your institution's regulations on photographs as this process may vary from institution to institution.

