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### **PHI Breach Reporting Deadline is March 1, 2013**

To comply with the HITECH breach notice requirements, HIPAA covered entities are required to report all small breaches of unsecured protected health information ("PHI") that occurred in calendar year 2012 to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by this Friday, March 1, 2013. Breach of unsecured PHI is an incident which involves acquisition, access, use or disclosure of PHI in a manner not permitted under the HIPAA privacy rules and which compromises the security or privacy of such PHI. A small breach of unsecured PHI is a breach which involves less than 500 individuals. Those incidents must be reported to the affected individuals no later than 60 days after the breach is discovered and to the Office of Civil Rights no later than 60 days after the calendar year in which the breach occurred (i.e., by March 1, 2013, for breaches that occurred in 2012). The breach reports need to be submitted on line at <http://ocrnotifications.hhs.gov/>

If you have any questions about the HITECH breach reporting requirements, please contact your Thompson Coburn attorney, or any of the Health Care attorneys listed below.

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