

HIPAA 18 Identifiers that Constitute Protected Health Information (PHI)

These are the 18 HIPAA Identifiers that are considered personally identifiable information. This information can be used to identify, contact, or locate a single person or can be used with other sources to identify a single individual. When personally identifiable information is used in conjunction with one's physical or mental health or condition, health care, or one's payment for that health care, it becomes Protected Health Information (PHI).

NOTE: If all of the following 18 identifiers are removed, then the data is considered de-identified and may be used/disclosed without restriction.

1. Names
2. All geographic subdivisions smaller than a state, including: street address, city, county, precinct, ZIP Code, and their equivalent geographical codes, except for the initial 3 digits of a ZIP Code if, according to the current publicly available data from the Bureau of the Census:
3. All elements of dates (except year) for dates directly related to an individual, including birth date, admission date, discharge date, date of death; and all ages over 89 and all elements of dates (including year) indicative of such age, except that such ages and elements may be aggregated into a single category of age 90 or older.
4. Telephone Number
5. Fax Number
6. E-mail Address
7. Social Security number
8. Medical Record number
9. Health Plan Beneficiary number
10. Account numbers
11. Certificate/License number
12. Vehicle Identifiers and Serial numbers (including license plates)
13. Device identifiers and Serial numbers
14. URL Address
15. IP Address
16. Biometric identifiers, like fingerprints and voiceprints
17. Full-face Photos and Any Comparable Images
18. Any other unique identifying number, characteristic or code