

DEFINITION OF DE-IDENTIFIED DATA

Identifiers That Must Be Removed to Make Health Information De-Identified

1. The following identifiers of the individual or of relatives, employers or household members of the individual must be removed:
 - (A) Names;
 - (B) All geographic subdivisions smaller than a State, including street address, city, county, precinct, zip code, and their equivalent geocodes, except for the initial three digits of a zip code if, according to the current publicly available data from the Bureau of the Census:
 - (1) The geographic unit formed by combining all zip codes with the same three initial digits contains more than 20,000 people; and
 - (2) The initial three digits of a zip code for all such geographic units containing 20,000 or fewer people is changed to 000.
 - (C) 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;
 - (D) Telephone numbers;
 - (E) Fax numbers;
 - (F) Electronic mail addresses;
 - (G) Social security numbers;
 - (H) Medical record numbers;
 - (I) Health plan beneficiary numbers;

- (J) Account numbers;
 - (K) Certificate/license numbers;
 - (L) Vehicle identifiers and serial numbers, including license plate numbers;
 - (M) Device identifiers and serial numbers;
 - (N) Web Universal Resource Locators (URLs);
 - (O) Internet Protocol (IP) address numbers;
 - (P) Biometric identifiers, including finger and voice prints;
 - (Q) Full face photographic images and any comparable images; and
 - (R) Any other unique identifying number, characteristic, or code; and
2. The entity does not have actual knowledge that the information could be used alone or in combination with other information to identify an individual who is a subject of the information.