

What is Protected Health Information (PHI)?

PHI is information that identifies an individual (usually a patient) and relates to at least one of the following:

- The individual's past, present, or future physical or mental health
- The provision of health care to the individual
- Past, present, or future payment for health care

The identifiers are:

- Name
- Address (all geographic subdivisions smaller than state, including street address, city, county, or ZIP code)
- All elements (except years) of dates related to an individual (including birth date, admission date, discharge date, date of death, and exact age if over 89)
- Telephone numbers
- FAX number
- Email address
- Social Security number
- Medical record number
- Health plan beneficiary number
- Account number
- Certificate/license number
- Any vehicle or other device serial number
- Device identifiers or serial numbers
- Web URL
- IP address
- Finger or voice prints
- Photographic images
- Any other characteristic that could uniquely identify the individual

(Source: <http://kb.iu.edu/data/ayyz.html>)