De-identification Under HIPAA

For protected health information to be de-identified under HIPAA, all of the following identifiers must be removed from the patient’s medical records before the data is released. A limited data set includes wiping information for all patients, relatives, employers, or household members.

- **Names**: First and last names of the patient, relatives, employers, or household members.
- **Dates**: All elements of dates (i.e., birthdate, admission date, discharge date, date of death) except year; if over 89 years old, year must be removed too.
- **Contact Information**: Telephone numbers, fax numbers, and email addresses.
- **Social Security Numbers**: Entire social security number.
- **Vehicle Identifiers**: Vehicle serial number and license plate numbers.
- **Medical record number, health plan beneficiary number, accounts numbers, certificate/license numbers, or any other unique identifying number, character, or code.
- **Patient Numbers**: Medical device identifiers and serial numbers.
- **Medical device identifiers and serial numbers**
- **Biometric Identifiers**: Data that is related to the physical, psychological, or behavioral characteristics of a person (e.g., retina scan or iris scan, fingerprint, voiceprint, or hand/face geometry).
- **Images**: Any full face photographic image and any other comparable video or image.