

## LIMITED DATA SET

A Limited Data Set is a data set that is stripped of certain direct identifiers specified in the HIPAA Privacy Rule. A limited data set may be disclosed to an outside party without a patient's authorization only if the purpose of the disclosure is for research, public health, or health care operations purposes and the person or entity receiving the information signs a data use agreement (DUA) with the covered entity or its business associate.

Limited data sets may include only the following identifiers:

- Dates, such as admission, discharge, service, and date of birth
- City, state, and zip code (not street address)
- Age
- Any other unique code or identifier that is not listed as a direct identifier

A data set to be considered a limited data set if all of the following direct identifiers, as they relate to the individual or his/her relatives, employers, or household members, are removed:

- Names
- Street addresses (other than town, city, state, and zip code)
- Telephone and fax numbers
- Email addresses
- Social security numbers
- Medical record numbers
- Health plan beneficiary numbers
- Account numbers
- Certificate/driver's license numbers
- Vehicle identifiers and serial numbers, including license plate numbers
- Device identifiers and serial numbers
- URLs and IP addresses
- Biometric identifiers
- Full face photographic images and any comparable images.

**NOTE:** a Limited Data Set is still Protected Health Information (PHI) under HIPAA. It is not De-Identified Data, as that term is defined under HIPAA, and thus, must be safeguarded and protected as required under the Privacy Rule.