

## What is a Limited Data Set (LDS)?

A limited data set is PHI that has been stripped of certain direct subject identifiers of the individual; or the relatives, employers, or household members of the individual as specified in the Privacy Rule (45 CFR 164.514), but still contain certain indirect identifiers (e.g., date of treatment, zip code, etc) that may be required for the research. Prior to a limited data set being used or disclosed outside of the covered entity, the investigator must enter into a Data Use Agreement with the covered entity (45 CFR 164.514(e)).

The direct identifiers that must be removed from limited data sets are:

- Names
- Postal address information, other than city, State, and zip code
- Telephone numbers
- Fax numbers
- Electronic mail addresses
- Social security numbers
- Medical record numbers
- Health plan beneficiary numbers
- Account numbers
- Certificate/license numbers
- Vehicle identifiers and serial numbers, including license plate numbers
- Device identifiers and serial numbers
- Web Universal Resource Locators (URLs)
- Internet Protocol (IP) address numbers
- Biometric identifiers, including finger and voice prints
- Full face photographic images and any comparable images; and