

## The 18 HIPAA Identifiers: What to Avoid in Case Reports

1. Names
2. Geographic subdivisions smaller than a state
3. Dates that are directly related to an individual (e.g., birth date, admission date, discharge date, death date) and **all ages over 89** except that **such ages and elements may be aggregated into a single category of age 90 or older**
4. Telephone numbers
5. Vehicle identifiers and serial numbers, including license plate numbers
6. Fax numbers
7. Device identifiers and serial numbers
8. Email addresses
9. Web Universal Resource Locators (URLs)
10. Social security numbers
11. Internet Protocol (IP) addresses
12. Medical record numbers
13. Biometric identifiers, including finger and voice prints
14. Health plan beneficiary numbers
15. Full-face photographs and any comparable images
16. Account numbers
17. Any other unique identifying number, characteristic, or code, except as permitted by paragraph (c) of the source listed below
18. Certificate/license numbers

Source: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. 2022. Guidance Regarding Methods for De-identification of Protected Health Information in Accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule. <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/special-topics/de-identification/index.html>