

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
Institutional Review Board

**SUMMARY OF DATA COVERED BY HIPAA**  
**What data requires waiver of HIPAA authorization**

May 18, 2011 updated summary of regulatory issues and meeting with Nancy Weinman, Senior Attorney, Privacy Officer, City Law Department, revised July, 2014.

City Government data that is covered by HIPAA: Ambulatory Health Services, Public Health Laboratory, Philadelphia Nursing Home, EMS, Group Health Plan {employee benefits} and DBHIDS

De-identified has a very specific definition under HIPAA. De-identified data cannot contain:

1. Names.
2. All geographic subdivisions smaller than a state, including street address, city, county, precinct, ZIP Code, and their equivalent geographical codes, except for the initial three digits of a ZIP Code if, according to the current publicly available data from the Bureau of the Census:
  - a. The geographic unit formed by combining all ZIP Codes with the same three initial digits contains more than 20,000 people.
  - b. The initial three digits of a ZIP Code for all such geographic units containing 20,000 or fewer people are changed to 000.
3. All elements of dates (except year) for dates directly related to an individual, including birth date, admission date, discharge date, date of death; and all ages over 89 and all elements of dates (including year) indicative of such age, except that such ages and elements may be aggregated into a single category of age 90 or older.
4. Telephone numbers.
5. Facsimile numbers.
6. Electronic mail addresses.
7. Social security numbers.
8. Medical record numbers.
9. Health plan beneficiary numbers.
10. Account numbers.
11. Certificate/license numbers.
12. Vehicle identifiers and serial numbers, including license plate numbers.
13. Device identifiers and serial numbers.
14. Web universal resource locators (URLs).
15. Internet protocol (IP) address numbers.
16. Biometric identifiers, including fingerprints and voiceprints.
17. Full-face photographic images and any comparable images.
18. Any other unique identifying number, characteristic, or code, unless otherwise permitted by the Privacy Rule for re-identification.

De-identified data does not require any HIPAA authorization (or waiver.)

Limited data sets cannot contain:

1. Names.
2. Postal address information, other than town or city, state, and ZIP Code.
3. Telephone numbers.
4. Fax numbers.
5. Electronic mail addresses.
6. Social security numbers.
7. Medical record numbers.
8. Health plan beneficiary numbers.
9. Account numbers.
10. Certificate/license numbers.
11. Vehicle identifiers and serial numbers, including license plate numbers.
12. Device identifiers and serial numbers.
13. Web universal resource locators (URLs).
14. Internet protocol (IP) address numbers.
15. Biometric identifiers, including fingerprints and voiceprints.
16. Full-face photographic images and any comparable images.

Use of a Limited Data Set does not require an HIPAA authorization or waiver of HIPAA. Disclosure of a Limited Data Set to an investigator will require a Data Use Agreement.

Data that is required reportable data, is not covered by HIPAA (e.g. some AACO and Disease Control data.)

Use of any other data covered by HIPAA requires an authorization to release information or a waiver of HIPAA authorization. Only a Privacy Board (the City doesn't have one) or an IRB, may approve a waiver of HIPAA authorization.