Private Health Information (PHI) Identifiers

PHI includes any information related to an individual’s past, present, or future:

1. Physical or mental health
2. Health care
3. Payment for health care in such a way as to reasonably expect possible identification of the individual.

PHI includes many common identifiers when they can be associated with the health information listed above:

1. **Names** (individual, employer, relatives, etc.)
2. **Address** (street, city, county, precinct, zip code -- initial 3 digits if geographic unit contains >20,000 people, or any other geographical codes)
3. **Telephone Numbers**
4. **Fax Numbers**
5. **Social Security Numbers**
6. **Medical Record Numbers**
7. **Dates** (except for years) connected to subjects, including date(s) of birth, admission, discharge, death, ages >89, and all elements of dates indicative of such age (except that such age and elements may be aggregated as "Age <90")
8. **E-mail Addresses**
9. **Health Plan Beneficiary Numbers**
10. **Account Numbers**
11. **Certificate/License Numbers**
12. **Vehicle Identifiers and Serial Numbers** (e.g., VINs, License Plate #, etc.)
13. **Device Identifiers and Serial Numbers**
14. **Universal Resource Locators** (URLs)
15. **Internet Protocol (IP) Addresses Numbers**
16. **Biometric Identifiers** (e.g., finger or voice prints)
17. **Full Face Photographic Images** (and any comparable images)
18. **Any other unique identifying numbers, characteristics, or codes**

Any health information by itself, without the 18 identifiers is not considered to be PHI (nor are the identifiers by themselves, without being linked to health information); and, if the health information can be de-identified, or the link between the health information and the 18 identifiers is broken, it is no longer considered to be PHI.