



# HIPAAWATCH

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## What is Protected Health Information (PHI) According to HIPAA?

*Anything that can be used to identify the patient, including the following specified identifiers:*

■ Names	■ Health insurance beneficiary numbers	■ Biometric identifiers, including finger, retinal and voice prints
■ Addresses (street, city, county, zip code — more than three digits)	■ Account numbers	■ Full-face photogenic images
■ Phone numbers	■ Certificate/license numbers	■ Any other unique identifying number, characteristic or code, except the unique code assigned by the investigator to code the data
■ Fax numbers	■ Vehicle identifiers and serial numbers, including license plate numbers	■ Anything about the patient's past, present or future medical conditions and treatment
■ Email addresses	■ Device identifiers and serial numbers	■ Includes billing and payment records for the treatment of health care services
■ Dates (other than year) directly related to an individual	■ Web uniform resource locators (URLs)	
■ Ages greater than 89	■ Internet protocol (IP) addresses	
■ Social Security numbers		
■ Medical record numbers		

**Even the fact that the patient is receiving treatment is private.**

**How is patient information shared?**

There are several ways patient information can be shared:  
Spoken/orally • Written/papers • Electronic/computer • Visual/eyes  
All of these communication types are protected under HIPAA regulations.

For more information about this issue of *AFMC HIPAAwatch*, or AFMC's Security Risk Analysis (SRA) services, contact AFMC at [SRA@afmc.org](mailto:SRA@afmc.org) or 501-906-7511.