

Limited Data Set (LDS): A limited data set is PHI, but it is a more limited set of PHI without direct identifiers. A limited data set may only contain:

- City, state, zip code,
- Elements of date, and
- Other numbers, characteristics, or codes not listed as direct identifiers

A limited data set excludes the following direct identifiers of the individual or of relatives, employers, or household members of the individual:

- Names;
- Postal address information, other than town or 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; and,
- Full face photographic images and any comparable images

If de-identification is not possible, a limited data set may be an alternative option.