What is Protected Health Information (PHI)?

Protected health information ("PHI") is any information that might directly or indirectly identify an individual, including

- Physical or mental health information
- Past, present, or future information
- Information collected, created or received
- Information in any medium: electronic, paper, oral

Inclusion of any of the below listed items, alone or in combination, is considered use of protected health information.

- Name – including the use of initials
- Address – All geographical identifiers smaller than a state, except for the initial three digits of a zip code
- Names of relative(s)
- Names of employer(s)
- Dates – any specific date, including date of discharge and date of birth, and including year-month combinations (year of event alone, without month or day, is not PHI)
- Telephone number
- Fax number
- E-mail address
- Social Security number
- Medical record number
- Health Plan or Account number
- Certificate or license number
- Vehicle or device serial number
- Web URL
- IP Address
- Voiceprints
- Fingerprints
- Photographs-full face
- Code
- Any other unique identifying number, characteristic, or code