

CME Guidelines for Patient Privacy

Patient PHI (Protected Health Information) -- such as in photographs or through written descriptions, case studies, etc. -- should not be included in any presentation unless a written, [HIPAA-compliant authorization](#) has been obtained from the patient (or his or her representative) prior to the submission of the presentation to Stanford.

1. Patient images that are de-identified may be used without patient authorization – this means that all identifiers must be removed or redacted/blocked out, including but not limited to: patient name, medical record number (MRN), date of birth (DOB).
2. Potential identifiers also include: full face photographic images and any comparable images.
3. If your presentation includes de-identified patient facial images, the facial images should be de-identified by blurring or blackening out the entire face. If a portion of the face must be shown, the facial image should be cropped so the patient's eyes and nose are blocked out; if the patient is still identifiable, then more of the face should be blurred or blackened out.
4. Images of internal body part(s) taken during a procedure using specialized equipment – arthroscopy, endoscopy, colonoscopy, bronchoscopy, laparoscopy, etc. are typically de-identified, provided there is no reasonable basis to believe that the images could be used to identify the individual.
5. MRI images of the head may provide information comparable to that of photographic images since a patient may be recognized via rendering of the skin surface, and therefore are considered identifiable.
6. Photos of people retrieved from the internet must be de-identified.