HIPAA Guidelines for Fieldwork

All UTMB students complete HIPAA training during the academic curriculum. This training includes an assessment of learning.

Per HIPAA guidelines, students cannot report this information in fieldwork assignments such as case studies presentations:

- Name
- Location - includes anything smaller than a state, such as street address
- Dates - all, including date of birth, admission and discharge dates
- Telephone numbers
- Fax numbers
- Electronic e-mail addresses
- Social security numbers
- Medical record numbers
- Health plan beneficiary numbers
- Account numbers
- Certificate and/or license numbers
- Vehicle identification numbers and license plate numbers
- Device identifiers and their serial numbers
- Web Universal Resource Locators (URLs)
- Internet Protocol (IP) address numbers
- Biometric identifiers, including finger and voice prints
- Full face photographic images and any comparable images
- Any other unique identifying number, characteristic, or code.

For written reports, the following information can be shared:

- Age (age 90 and over must be aggregated to prevent the identification of older individuals)
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Marital Status
- Codes (a random code may be used to link cases, as long as the code does not contain, or be a derivative of, the person's social security number, date of birth, phone/fax numbers, etc.)

Students, as well as therapists, often keep "working files" in their desk. This is still allowed under HIPAA guidelines, however this information must be locked in a file cabinet when not in use, and must be shredded when no longer needed.