# Data Definitions and Guidance

## Definitions

**Data**: Factual information used as a basis for reasoning, discussion, or calculation.

**Research Activities**: The conduct of scholarly inquiry as it relates to the performance of a study.

**Non-Research Activities**: Traditional business, clinical, financial, or administrative functions in support of University and/or Hospital operations.

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## Stanford Memo from Dean Arvin regarding Data Use Agreements

All Stanford Faculty and Staff are subject to the limitations and requirements regarding the right to enter into a Data Use Agreement. The OSR decision tree is intended to help determine in tandem with DoR’s policy not only which Office at Stanford will handle the Data Use Agreement, but also when a Data Use Agreement is either required or recommended. [https://doresearch.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/documents/faculty_guidance_for_data_agreements.pdf](https://doresearch.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/documents/faculty_guidance_for_data_agreements.pdf)

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## Resources and Links

- Stanford webpage for PHI policies and compliance: [https://acp.stanford.edu/hipaa/hipaa](https://acp.stanford.edu/hipaa/hipaa)
- Stanford Industrial Contracts Office: [https://sites.stanford.edu/ico/](https://sites.stanford.edu/ico/)
- Stanford Office of Sponsored Research: [https://doresearch.stanford.edu/research-offices/osr-office-sponsored-research](https://doresearch.stanford.edu/research-offices/osr-office-sponsored-research)

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# Data Classifications

## Data Risk Classifications

### Low Risk Data: The data is intended for public disclosure and any loss of the data would have no adverse impact on Stanford. Examples: Research data (at PI’s discretion), information in the public domain.

### Medium Risk Data: The data is not generally available to the public, or the loss of the data could have a mildly adverse impact on Stanford. Examples: Unpublished Research data (at PI’s discretion), Stanford internal memos or reports, student records.

### High Risk Data: Protection of the data is required by law, or the loss of the data or system could have a significant adverse impact on Stanford. Examples: SSN’s, financial account numbers, export controlled information, donor contact information.

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## Health-Related Data Definitions and General Classifications

### De-identified Data Set (Low Risk). Health information that does not identify an individual.

### Limited Data Set (Medium Risk). Health information that includes up to three of the following individual identifying elements: dates (admission, DOB, DOD, service, etc.), location (state, city, zip code), and age.

### Protected Health Information ("PHI") (High Risk). Individually identifiable health information consisting of 18 specific identifying data elements that identifies the individual.