1. What is the primary goal of data anonymization?

The primary goal of data anonymization is to protect individuals from being identified from a particular data set, so that the data is being used purely for research.

1. What is the Havasupai Tribe case about?

The Havasupai Tribe case is about the misuse of health data by researchers from Arizona State University. In the 90’s, researchers from ASU conducted a study on the prevalence of type 2 diabetes on a Native American community. They informed them that their blood samples would be used to analyze the genetic component of the high amount of diabetes in their community, but they did not inform them that their blood samples were being investigated for genetic markers for schizophrenia and other metabolic disorders, trying to identify the origin of the tribe.

Members of the tribe discovered that further research was conducted without their consent, and they felt as if their personal beliefs were challenged and went on to sue the researchers.

1. What was the largest health data breach in history?

One of the largest health data breach in history was in 2015, when Anthem INC was a victim of hacking and nearly 80 million individual’s personal information was leaked, like social security number and birth dates.

1. What is the pulse oximeter controversy about?

The pulse oximeter controversy was about how recent studies showed that the device is three times more likely to muss hypoxemia in Black patients than it is in white patients, because the pigment in the skin absorbs more light from the device, leading to inaccurate oxygen readings.

1. What is the role of an Institutional Review Board (IRB) in research?

The role of the IRB in research is to ensure that all the ethical standards are being upheld and that the participants in research are not being taken advantage of.

1. What is the difference between spreadsheet software and database software for health data management?

Spreadsheet software is best for calculations on numerical data, whole data base software is best for large data sets.

1. What is a conflict of interest in public health research?

A conflict of interest in public health research could be financial conflicts, academic conflicts, or personal conflicts.

1. What is informed consent in the context of health data collection?

The individual knows the details of the study being conducted and the IRB has reviewed and confirmed that all participants of the study have given their informed consent.

1. What is data masking in the context of de-identification of health data?

Data masking is replacing information that can identify an individual with random characters or removing it.

1. What is the principle of 𝑘-anonymity in the context of de-identification of health data?

The principle of k-anonymity in the context of de-identification of health data is that each group has the k-records and thus it is hard to single out individuals and misuse the data.

1. What is the main concern about conflicts of interest in public health research?

That the integrity of the research, the validity in the findings and the public trust in health information get compromised when conflicts of interest interfere in public research.

1. What is the first step in managing conflicts of interest in public health research?

The first step is avoidance, by either choosing not to participate in research or ending your financial ties in the industry.

1. What is the role of independent oversight in managing conflicts of interest in public health research?

This involves having a separate committee review proposals and identify potential conflicts and monitor the findings before the research is published.

1. What is one strategy for mitigating conflicts of interest in public health research?

One strategy for mitigating conflicts of interest in public health research is divestment from the certain research.

1. What is the potential impact of not properly managing conflicts of interest in public health research?

One potential impact is loss of public trust.