

# What is pseudonymisation?



Who are you?



I'm sorry but that's private.

C'mon, you can trust me...

I'm pseudonymised data.

What kind of word is that?



It's simpler than it sounds. While your doctors need to know who you are, you probably don't want everyone reading your medical records. To keep your personal information confidential, when your data is used for research, any information that would identify you is removed and replaced by me, **Pseudonymised Data**.



So I get a secret name like a superhero?

Sort of. It's a way to keep your personal identity safe.

And you are?

I'm **Five Safes**. I put the **Secure** in **Secure Data Environment**. To have **Safe Data**, researchers will give patients a name or number, called a unique identifier, that does not reveal their 'real world' identity.

But what if someone figures out who the patients are?

A special code is used, like a key, that locks and unlocks my identifiable personal information.

This special code is called a **project key** and it is held by people that guard the SDE system. The project key is not accessible to the researchers working on the project, ensuring that your confidential data remains secure.

