

Data Dictionary Example developed by dbGaP

Column Header	Description
VARNAME	Variable name
VARDESC	Variable description
DOCFILE	Name of document associated with the variable
TYPE	Integer (1,2,3,4...), enumerated integer (integers are coded for non-integer meaning, see CODE_MEANINGS), decimal (0.5,2.5,...), string (reporter, doctor, lawyer...)
UNITS	Unit of variable if applicable, otherwise leave blank
MIN	Logical minimum value of variable if applicable
MAX	Logical maximum value of variable if applicable
CODE_MEANING	Description of enumerated integer, use equal sign (=) between code and meaning, and use semicolons (;) only to delimit code
RESOLUTION	(Optional) Measurement resolution - the number of decimal places to which a measured value is presented in the data
COMMENT	(Optional) Additional information not included in the VARDESC that will further delineate the variable If additional comments are needed beyond COMMENT3, create columns (COMMENT4, COMMENT5, etc).

VARNAME and VARDESC are required columns for all data dictionaries; all other columns should be included when applicable

VARNAME	VARDESC	DOCFILE	TYPE	UNITS	MIN	MAX	CODE_MEANING	RESOLUTION	COMMENT1	COMMENT2	COMMENT3
subject_id	Subject's ID	Eyedisease.doc	integer								
case_control	Is participant case or control?	Eyedisease.doc									
age	Age of disease onset	Eyedisease.doc	integer	years	25	90	90=">= 90"				
height	Height of subject	Eyedisease.doc	integer	inches	59	75					
sex	Gender of participant	Main_exam.txt	enumerated integer				1=Male;2=Female;NA=Not applicable;UNK=Unknown				
weight	Weight of participant	Diagnosis.pdf	decimal	pounds	99.5	500.8	-1=missing;-2=not assessed	1			
mothocc	Occupation of mother	Background.pdf	string								
fatherocc	Occupation of father	Background.pdf	string								
gluc_conc	Concentration of blood glucose	Eyedisease.doc	decimal	mg/L	700.45	1500.08		2			
dementia	Dementia status	Psych.doc	string				Y=yes;?=maybe;N=no;.=missing		Dementia was defined using DSM-IV criteria.	Symptoms be present for >= 6 months.	