U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Data Dictionary:
NCD Download Database

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Table of Contents

Important Notes

Please note the following:

- This document provides a technical overview of the database layout, helping users understand the fields and tables, and how those interact with one another. It is designed as a reference for technical users—like developers, analysts, and database admins—who need to navigate the data in the downloads efficiently. If you have questions or need additional help, please use the Submit Feedback/Ask a Question link at the bottom of every page in the MCD.

- Any time information included in DateTime fields is in UTC.

- The "Nullable?" column indicates whether a variable can be null or not.

- Only the base table (LCD, ARTICLE, NCD) will always have a record for a given document ID/version. The ancillary tables (known as "crosswalk tables") will only have records if that associated field has been filled out by the MAC.

- For document fields that display as a table or a list with one or more items, the database stores the related information in a separate table, known as a "crosswalk table." For example, in the LCD database table, a Local Coverage Determination (LCD) may relate to one or more National Coverage Determinations (NCDs). This relationship is recorded in a crosswalk table called LCD_RELATED_NCD_DOCUMENTS, which links entries using unique identifiers (e.g., document ID and version). If an LCD has no related NCDs, the LCD_RELATED_NCD_DOCUMENTS crosswalk table will have no records for that LCD. If a relationship exists, the crosswalk table will contain at least one record and all fields will contain data, as noted in the "Nullable?" column.

Table Name

NCD_BNFT_CTGRY_REF

Table Structure

Variable Name	Description	Nullable?
bnft_ctgry_cd	Benefit Category Code.	Not Null
bnft_ctgry_desc	Benefit Category Description.	Not Null

Primary Keys

bnft_ctgry_cd

Usage

This table contains the universe of Medicare Benefit Category reference values. Join from table NCD_TRKG_BNFT_XREF on benefit_category_cd to retrieve the description for a benefit category.

Table Name

NCD_PBLCTN_REF

Table Structure

Variable Name	Description	Nullable?
pblctn_cd	Internal ID.	Not Null
pblctn_num	Manual Publication Number.	Not Null
pblctn_title	Benefit Category Title.	Not Null

Primary Keys

pblctn_cd

Usage

This table contains the universe of Publication reference values. Join from table NCD_TRKG pblctn_cd to retrieve the description for a publication.

Table Name

NCD_TRKG

Table Structure

Variable Name	Description	Nullable?
NCD_id	A unique identification number generated by the database.	Not Null
NCD_vrsn_num	A number auto-incremented by the database indicating the version of the NCD or coverage provision.	Not Null
natl_cvrg_type	Identifies whether the document is an NCD (true) or coverage provision (false).	Not Null
cvrg_lvl_cd	Indicates if the NCD is for full-coverage (1), restricted-coverage (2), or no coverage (3).	Not Null
NCD_mnl_sect	The Section Number from the Manual.	Not Null
NCD_mnl_sect_title	The Section Title from the Manual.	Not Null
NCD_efctv_dt	Date this version of NCD or coverage provision goes into effect (on transmittal cover sheet).	Not Null
NCD_impltn_dt	Date this version of NCD or coverage provision is implemented (on transmittal cover sheet).	Null
NCD_trmntn_dt	Date this version of NCD or coverage provision is no longer in effect.	Null
itm_srvc_desc	A characterization of the item/service and how it operates or is performed.	Null
indctn_lmtn	The general indications for which an item/service is covered and/or considered reasonable and necessary and the limitations of coverage and/or medical necessity.	Null
xref_txt	Provides additional information on related topics in the CMS Manuals.	Null
othr_txt	Information not included in other fields.	Null
trnsmtl_num	Number on transmittal cover sheet.	Null
trnsmtl_issnc_dt	Date transmittal issued (from transmittal cover sheet).	Null

trnsmtl_url	Full URL path to the CMS Transmittal announcing issuance or an update to the NCD. NOTE: On the MCD the file link is displayed as "filename.pdf", not the full URL.	Null
chg_rqst_num	Change Request (CR) number (from transmittal cover sheet).	Null
pblctn_cd	Manual publication number.	Not Null
rev_hstry	Description of revisions made to this NCD.	Null
under_rvw	Indicates whether this NCD is under review in OCSQ (true) or not under review (false.)	Not Null
creatd_tmstmp	Created Time Stamp. The date and time when the NCD version was created.	Not Null
last_updt_tmstmp	Last Updated Time Stamp. The date and time when the NCD version was last updated. NOTE: Whichever is greater between the Last Updated Time Stamp (last_updt_tmstmp) or the Last Cleared Time Stamp (last_clrnc_tmstmp) signifies the most recent change to the document.	Not Null
last_clrnc_tmstmp	Last Cleared Time Stamp. The date and time when the NCD was approved to be published. NOTE: Whichever is greater between the Last Updated Time Stamp (last_updt_tmstmp) or the Last Cleared Time Stamp (last_clrnc_tmstmp) signifies the most recent change to the document.	Not Null
NCD_lab	Identifies whether the document is a Lab NCD (true) or NCD (false).	Not Null
ncd_keyword	Keyword field allows OCSQ to enter relevant words that do not appear in the document but that should cause the document to be retrieved if searched for on the MCD.	Null
NCD_ama	This is to specify whether or not the AMA copyright notice for CPT codes should display (true), or not display (false.)	Not Null

Primary Keys

NCD_id
NCD_vrsn_num

Usage

This is the primary NCD table and contains one record for each version of an NCD.

Table Name

NCD_TRKG_BNFT_XREF

Table Structure

Variable Name	Description	Nullable?
NCD_id	A unique identification number generated by the database.	Not Null
NCD_vrsn_num	A number auto-incremented by the database indicating the version of the NCD or coverage provision.	Not Null
bnft_ctgry_cd	Benefit Category Code.	Not Null
creatd_tmstmp	Created Time Stamp.	Not Null
last_updt_tmstmp	Last Updated Time Stamp.	Not Null

Primary Keys

NCD_id
NCD_vrsn_num
bnft_ctgry_cd

Usage

Join from table NCD_TRKG on ncd_id, ncd_vrsn_num to retrieve the benefit categories for an NCD.