

VISIT_DIMENSION Table

The **VISIT_DIMENSION** table represents sessions where observations were made. Each row represents one session (also called a visit, event or encounter). This session can involve a patient directly, such as a visit to a doctor's office, or it can involve the patient indirectly, as in when several tests are run on a tube of the patient's blood. More than one observation can be made during a visit. All visits must have a start date / time associated with them, but they may or may not have an end date. The visit record also contains specifics about the location of the session, such as the hospital or clinic the session occurred and whether the patient was an inpatient or an outpatient at the time of the visit.

Starting from version 1.6, this table will support custom columns apart from the required ones. The custom column in the table follows the same setup rule as the ones in the *PATIENT_DIMENSION* table. Please refer to the *PATIENT_DIMENSION* section for the data type mapping information.

The VISIT_DIMENSION table has the following four **REQUIRED** columns:

1. ENCOUNTER_NUM

- It is the primary key for the table; therefore it **cannot** contain duplicates.
- **Cannot** be null.
- Holds a reference number for the patient within the data repository.
- Integer field.

1. START_DATE

- **Cannot** be null.
- Contains the date the event began.
- Date-time field.

1. END_DATE

- Can be null.
- Contains the date the event ended.
- Date-time field.

- *A visit is considered to be an event; there is a distinct beginning and ending date and time for the event. However, these dates may not be recorded and the ACTIVE_STATUS_CD is used to record whether the event is still going on.*

1. ACTIVE_STATUS_CD

- Contains a code that represents the status of an event along with the precision of the available dates.
- Conceptually it is very similar to the *VITAL_STATUS_CD* column in the *PATIENT_DIMENSION* table.
- The code consists of two characters; the first one represents the validity of the END_DATE and the second one is for the START_DATE.
- These values are:

KEY:

"**" means that a second character should be the start date indicator (if exists)

"_" means that a first character should be the end date indicator (if exists)

Date Explained	Value	Description	
End date	U*	Unknown	corresponds to a <i>null</i> /END_DATE
End date	O*	Ongoing	corresponds to a <i>null</i> /END_DATE
End date	(null)*	Known	END_DATE accurate to <i>day</i>
End date	Y*	Known	END_DATE accurate to <i>day</i>
End date	M*	Known	END_DATE accurate to <i>month</i>
End date	X*	Known	END_DATE accurate to <i>year</i>
End date	R*	Known	END_DATE accurate to <i>hour</i>
End date	T*	Known	END_DATE accurate to <i>minute</i>
End date	S*	Known	END_DATE accurate to <i>second</i>
Start date	_L	Unknown	corresponds to a <i>null</i> /START_DATE
Start date	_A	Active	corresponds to a <i>null</i> /START_DATE
Start date	_(null)	Ongoing	START_DATE accurate to <i>day</i>
Start date	_D	Ongoing	START_DATE accurate to <i>day</i>
Start date	_B	Known	START_DATE accurate to <i>month</i>
Start date	_F	Known	START_DATE accurate to <i>year</i>

Start date	_H	Known	START_DATE accurate to <i>hour</i>
Start date	_I	Known	START_DATE accurate to <i>minute</i>
Start date	_C	Known	START_DATE accurate to <i>second</i>

- *The codes for this field were determined arbitrarily as there was no standardized coding system for their representation.*

The VISIT_DIMENSION table may have an unlimited number of optional columns but their data types and coding systems are specific to the local implementation. An example of a visit table is shown below. In the example table, there are eight optional columns.

VISIT_DIMENSION		
PK	ENCOUNTER_NUM	int
	PATIENT_NUM	int
	ACTIVE_STATUS_CD	varchar(50)
	START_DATE	datetime
	END_DATE	datetime
	INOUT_CD	varchar(50)
	LOCATION_CD	varchar(50)
	VISIT_BLOB	text
	UPDATE_DATE	datetime
	DOWNLOAD_DATE	datetime
	IMPORT_DATE	datetime
	SOURCESYSTEM_CD	varchar(50)
	UPLOAD_ID	int

The rules for using the codes in the columns to perform queries are represented in the metadata and the values within the columns follow a similar pattern as previously described for the *PATIENT_DIMENSION* table.