

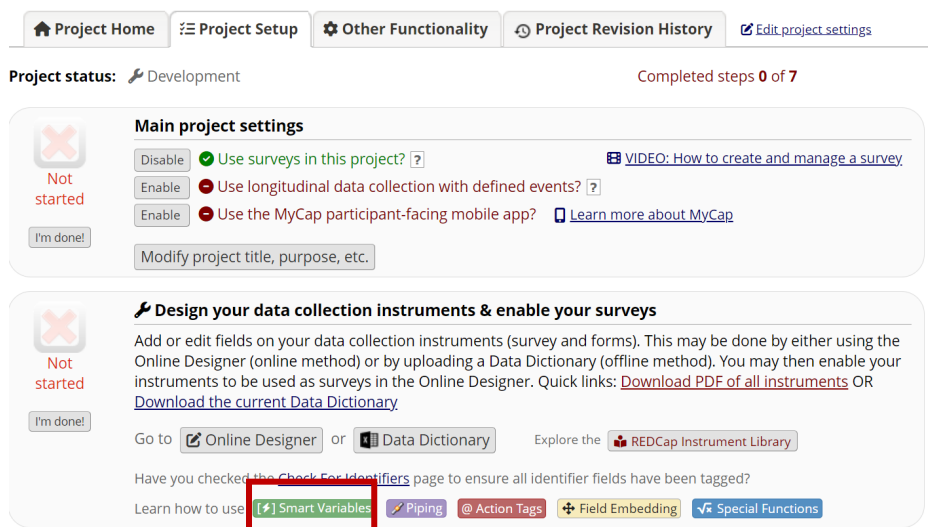
How do I reference data that aren't fields on a form?

Smart Variables are variables that allow you to reference metadata (i.e. information other than data fields). This includes an event, repeat instance, data access group, or user.

In this tutorial, we will highlight a few of the most popular smart variables. We suggest that you review the available smart variables to familiarize yourself with design options. **Be sure to read the important note on the last page!**

A complete list of Smart Variables, can be found in the **Designer** mode by:

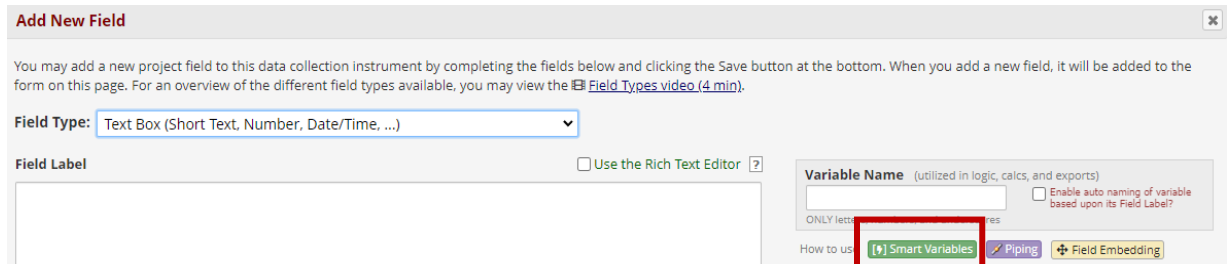
1. Clicking on the 'Smart Variables' button in the **Project Setup** menu option



The screenshot shows the 'Project Setup' menu in REDCap. The 'Smart Variables' button is highlighted with a red box. The menu includes options for 'Project Home', 'Project Setup', 'Other Functionality', 'Project Revision History', and 'Edit project settings'. Below the menu, there are sections for 'Main project settings' and 'Design your data collection instruments & enable your surveys'. The 'Smart Variables' button is located in the 'Learn how to use' section of the 'Design your data collection instruments & enable your surveys' section.

<< OR >>

2. Clicking Add New Field page in the Online Designer page.



The screenshot shows the 'Add New Field' page in the Online Designer. The 'Smart Variables' button is highlighted with a red box. The page includes a 'Field Type' dropdown menu, a 'Field Label' text input, and a 'Variable Name' text input. The 'Smart Variables' button is located in the 'How to use' section of the 'Variable Name' input field.

Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) Library

3. If you want to display information collected during a previous repeat event:

- a. **[previous-instance]**: Specifies information from the prior instance of a repeating form.

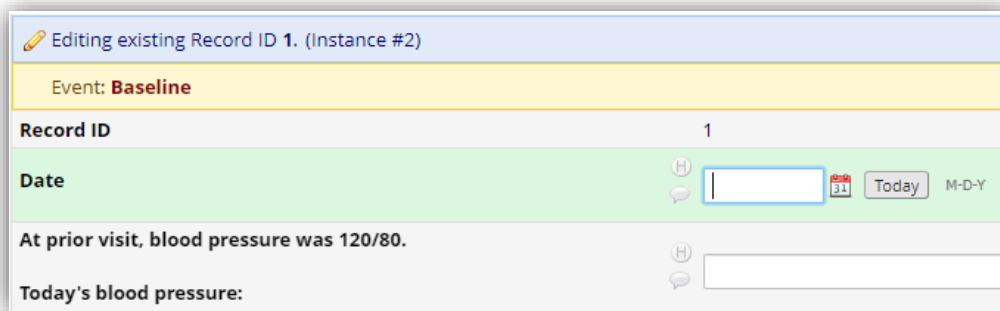
Example: Display data from the previous instance of a repeating form. [bp][previous-instance]

Field Type: Text Box (Short Text, Number, Date/Time, ...)

Field Label

At prior visit, blood pressure was [bp][previous-instance].

Today's blood pressure:



Editing existing Record ID 1. (Instance #2)

Event: **Baseline**

Record ID 1

Date Today M-D-Y

At prior visit, blood pressure was 120/80.

Today's blood pressure:

Note: Similar options include *first-instance*.

4. If you want to capture data entry users:

- a. **[user-fullname]**: Current REDCap user, full name.

Example: Capture users who are performing tasks in real-time while doing data entry.



Field Label

Person obtaining consent: [user-fullname]

Person obtaining consent: Baylah Tessier-Sherman

Note: Similar options include *user-name*, *user-email*, *user-dag-name*, and *user-dag-label*.



Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) Library

IMPORTANT: Using smart variables in Custom Data Quality Rules

You must include at least one “real” field (i.e. non-smart variable) in your logic.

For example, to create a custom data quality rule that identifies records that have not been assigned to a DAG by using the smart variable `[record-dag-name]`, you will need to incorporate one of the following solutions:

- Option 1: Incorporate logic, where `[record_id]` is your primary ID variable:

`[record-dag-name]= " and [record_id]<> "`

- Option 2: Create a new field in the project that captures the DAG name by using `@CALCTEXT([record-dag-name])` and entering the new field into in the logic for the data quality rule.