



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

Health Data Nova Scotia

DOCTORS Data Dictionary

Licensed Provider Registry

Last Revised: November, 2017

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Summary of the DOCTORS datasets

Purpose: Demographic information regarding health services providers

Data Years:

DOCS:	Fiscal 1995 – 2014	(April 1 to March 31)
EDUC:	Fiscal 1995 – 2014	(April 1 to March 31)
OPTIN:	Fiscal 1995 – 2014	(April 1 to March 31)

Source Agency: Medavie Blue Cross

Database Contact: Jordan Farrell – 902.494.3688 – jordan.farrell@nshealth.ca

Type: Cumulative administrative records

ICD Coding: N/A

Target Population: Physicians that are registered and licensed to practice in Nova Scotia

Security & Access: [Apply for access](#)

Legality: Custodian: [Department of Health and Wellness](#)
Use of data for research purposes must be [PHIA](#) and [PIPEDA](#) Compliant

Variable Summary:

- **DOCS:** Date of birth, place of birth, sex, provider type
- **EDUC:** Education, graduation year, name of school, specialty received
- **OPTIN:** Eligibility start & end dates, the period during which the physician was licensed to practice in Nova Scotia

More Information:

The first **DOCS** dataset is created with data from the year 1995. However since the data are cumulative, opt in/out and graduation year records are available from 1989 onward.

There are no variable labels in the **OPTIN** dataset.

Dataset Details

The datasets are named such that *nn* represents the last two digits of the fiscal year the dataset records. E.g. DOCS14 contains physician demographic information up to and including fiscal 2014.

DOCS*nn*

The DOCS datasets contain information about physician demographics. Each observation in DOCS data represents a single physician. Physicians are not removed when are no longer eligible to practice. A unique individual is identified by encrypted provider ID (*doctor*). These are cumulative files, every fiscal year we release a new dataset which includes the previous years of data as well as any new or updated records.

EDUC*nn*

The EDUC datasets contains information about a physician's medical education. Physicians who graduate from more than one program will have multiple records in the dataset with different graduation years (*gradyear*), specialties received (*dspecial*), and medical school attended (*medschool*). These are cumulative files, every fiscal year we release a new dataset which includes the previous years of data as well as any new or updated records.

OPTIN*nn*

The OPTIN datasets contains information about the start and end dates of physician eligibility to practice in Nova Scotia. Physicians who have had multiple periods of eligibility to practice in Nova Scotia will have multiple records in the datasets recording the start date (*optin*) and end date (*optout*) for the duration of each period. These are cumulative files, every fiscal year we release a new dataset which includes the previous years of data as well as any new or updated records.

Definitions

SAS Date Format:

Variables representing dates are stored in the SAS date format. This format is a value that represents the number of days between January 1, 1960, and the specified date. Dates before January 1, 1960, are negative numbers; dates after are positive numbers. SAS dates account for all leap year days, and can reliably tell you what day of the week a particular day was going back to Sept. 1752.

SAS dates can be formatted by HDNS to appear as human-readable dates for research projects.

Variables in the DOCS Datasets

Place of Birth

Variable Name	bplace
Label	Place of Birth
Definition	The provider's place of birth
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	3
Field Values (Label)	11 (AMHERST) 12 (ANNAPOLIS MUNICIPALITY) 13 (ANNAPOLIS ROYAL) 14 (ANTIGONISH MUNICIPALITY) 15 (ANTIGONISH TOWN) 18 (BERWICK) 20 (BRIDGEWATER) 22 (CAPE BRETON) 23 (CHESTER) 26 (COLCHESTER) 27 (CUMBERLAND) 28 (DARTMOUTH) 29 (DIGBY MUNICIPALITY) 30 (DIGBY TOWN) 31 (DOMINION) 32 (GLACE BAY) 33 (GUYSBOROUGH) 34 (HALIFAX CITY) 35 (HALIFAX MUNICIPALITY) 41 (KENTVILLE) 42 (KINGS) 43 (LIVERPOOL) 45 (LOUISBURG) 46 (LUNENBURG MUNICIPALITY) 47 (LUNENBURG TOWN) 49 (MIDDLETON) 51 (NEW GLASGOW) 52 (NEW WATERFORD) 53 (NORTH SYDNEY) 54 (OXFORD) 55 (PARRSBORO) 56 (PICTOU MUNICIPALITY)

57	(PICTOU TOWN)
58	(PORT HAWKESBURY)
59	(QUEENS)
60	(RICHMOND)
61	(SHELBURNE MUNICIPALITY)
64	(STELLARTON)
65	(STEWIACKE)
67	(SYDNEY CITY)
68	(SYDNEY MINES)
70	(TRURO)
71	(VICTORIA)
72	(WESTVILLE)
73	(WINDSOR)
74	(WOLFFVILLE)
75	(YARMOUTH MUNICIPALITY)
76	(YARMOUTH TOWN)
99	(NOVA SCOTIA UNKNOWN)
100	(NEWFOUNDLAND)
101	(PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND)
102	(NEW BRUNSWICK)
103	(QUEBEC)
104	(ONTARIO)
105	(MANITOBA)
106	(SASKATCHEWAN)
107	(ALBERTA)
108	(BRITISH COLUMBIA)
110	(YUKON TERRITORY)
111	(CANADA UNKNOWN)
120	(USA)
130	(MEXICO)
140	(ARGENTINA)
141	(BOLIVIA)
142	(BRAZIL)
143	(CHILE)
144	(COLUMBIA)
145	(CUBA)
146	(ECUADOR)
148	(PERU)
150	(VENEZUELA)
160	(OTHER AMERICA)
170	(ENGLAND)
171	(SCOTLAND)
172	(NORTHERN IRELAND)
173	(UNITED KINGDOM - OR OTHER NOT SPECIFIED)
175	(IRELAND)
200	(AUSTRIA)
201	(BELGIUM)
202	(BULGARIA)
203	(CZECHOSLOVAKIA)
204	(DENMARK)

205	(FINLAND)
206	(FRANCE)
207	(GERMANY)
208	(GREECE)
209	(HUNGARY)
211	(ITALY)
212	(LATVIA)
213	(MALTA)
214	(NETHERLANDS)
215	(NORWAY)
216	(POLAND)
217	(PORTUGAL)
218	(ROMANIA)
218	(RUMANIA)
219	(SPAIN)
220	(SWEDEN)
221	(SWITZERLAND)
222	(YUGOSLAVIA)
240	(EUROPE - OTHER)
251	(BURMA)
252	(SRI LANKA)
253	(CHINA)
254	(INDIA)
255	(INDONESIA)
256	(IRAN)
257	(IRAQ)
258	(ISRAEL)
259	(JAPAN)
260	(KOREA)
261	(LEBANON)
262	(MALAYSIA)
263	(PAKISTAN / BANGLADESH)
264	(PHILLIPINES)
265	(SYRIA)
266	(THAILAND)
267	(TURKEY)
268	(VIETNAM)
269	(ASIA - OTHER)
300	(ALGERIA)
301	(EGYPT)
302	(GHANA)
303	(KENYA)
304	(NIGERIA)
305	(SOUTH AFRICA)
305	(UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA)
306	(EAST AFRICA)
307	(AFRICA - OTHER)
308	(SAUDI ARABIA)
400	(AUSTRALIA)
401	(NEW ZEALAND)

402	(U.S.S.R.)
403	(WEST INDIES)
499	(OTHER OR UNKNOWN)
500	(INVERNESS)
501	(BADDECK)
502	(SPRINGHILL)
503	(HONG KONG)
504	(MIDDLE MUSQUODOBOIT)
505	(JAMAICA)
506	(SYDNEY)
507	(EGYPT)
508	(ABERDEEN)
509	(WASHINGTON DC)
510	(MONTREAL)
511	(MAURITIUS)
512	(CROATIA)
513	(UNKNOWN)
514	(ARICHAT)
515	(NOVA SCOTIA)
517	(MONCTON)
518	(KARACHI)
519	(KIRKUK)
520	(ILLINOIS)
521	(NELLORE INDIA)
522	(WINNIPEG)
523	(TRINIDAD / TOBAGO)
524	(JORDAN)
525	(TAIWAN)
526	(ALBANIA)
527	(LIBYA)
528	(BOSNIA/HERZEGOVINA)
529	(TURKEY)
530	(UKRAINE)
531	(KUWAIT)
532	(DOMINICA)
534	(YEMEN)
535	(ESTONIA)
536	(GUYANA)
537	(UNITED ARAB EMIRATES)
538	(SLOVAKIA)
539	(RUSSIA)

Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1998 - 2014
History	

Provider City

Variable Name	dcity
Label	Provider City
Definition	Provider's city of practice
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	20
Field Values	
Additional Information	This field is free text; because of this it may contain typos and inconsistencies acquired during the data entry process.
Dates Available	Fiscal 1998 - 2014
History	

Provider County

Variable Name	dcounty
Label	Provider County
Definition	County or city of the provider's correspondence address
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	2
Field Values (Label)	<p>00 (Unknown) 01 (Annapolis) 02 (Antigonish) 03 (Cape Breton) 04 (Colchester) 05 (Cumberland) 06 (Digby) 07 (Guysborough) 08 (Halifax County) 09 (Hants) 10 (Inverness) 11 (Kings) 12 (Lunenburg) 13 (Pictou) 14 (Queens) 15 (Richmond) 16 (Shelburne) 17 (Victoria) 18 (Yarmouth) 19 (City of Halifax) 20 (City of Dartmouth) 21 (Sydney) 33 (Sackville, N.B.) 99 (Out-of-Province)</p> <p>Null Values: " "</p>
Additional Information	Provider county (<i>dcounty</i>) is based on the postal code of the provider's correspondence address.
Dates Available	Fiscal 1998 - 2014
History	

Date of Birth

Variable Name	dob
Label	Date of Birth
Definition	Individual's date of birth
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	4
Field Values	
Additional Information	<p>Providers with a DOB of 01/01/2000 are post graduate doctors who are currently in residence. They are not currently registered and their birth dates are marked with this date.</p> <p>Due to confidentiality reasons date of birth will not be released in full to external researchers because of the potential to identify individuals.</p> <p>Month and Year of birth may be released if required for a research project and approved by the HDNS Data Access Committee. Alternatively, a variable for age at a given index date may be derived by HDNS and released.</p> <p>Date of birth (<i>dob</i>) is stored in the SAS date format, which is a value that represents the number of days between January 1, 1960, and a specified date. Dates before January 1, 1960, are negative numbers; dates after are positive numbers.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1998 - 2014
History	

Provider ID

Variable Name	doctor
Label	New Provider ID (6 Digit)
Definition	Encrypted provider identification number
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	24
Field Values	Null Values: “ ”
Additional Information	<p>Provider IDs are not available for release due to confidentiality reasons. They are used internally by HDNS for data linkage.</p> <p>In some cases a valid provider ID is not available. As a result the field will either be left blank or filled with a “dummy” ID. Observations containing a dummy ID, or a null value may not need to be excluded if a project’s scope does not need to identify individual providers.</p> <p>Unique IDs can be generated by HDNS for research projects which can be used to link between datasets or count observations of individuals.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1998 - 2012
History	

Provider Province

Variable Name	dprov
Label	Provider Province
Definition	The provider's given province or country of correspondence
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	2
Field Values (Label)	AB (Alberta) BC (British Columbia) MB (Manitoba) NB (New Brunswick) NF (Newfoundland) NS (Nova Scotia) OC (Out of Country) ON (Ontario) PE (Prince Edward Island) PQ (Quebec) QC (Quebec) QE (Quebec) SK (Saskatchewan) US (United States) YT (Yukon and the Territories)
Additional Information	<p>Provider province (dprov) is based on the provider's correspondence address. The correspondence address is not always updated when a provider leaves the province, it's only updated if MSI is contacted and the out of province address is supplied.</p> <p>There are some non-NS correspondence addresses on file for providers that can currently practice in NS (e.g. Locums).</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1998 - 2014
History	

Provider Type

Variable Name	dtype
Label	Provider Type
Definition	Category of provider that attended the individual
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	2
Field Values (Label)	DE (Dentist) MW (Midwife) NP (Nurse Practitioner) OP (Optometrist) PH (Physician) PM (Dummy Pharmacist ID) PP (Out-Of-Prov) PR (Prosthetics) PX (Pharmacy) RX (Pharmacy) Null Values: None
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1998 - 2014
History	

Old Provider Number

Variable Name	olddoc
Label	Old Provider Number
Definition	Billing license number assigned to a physician.
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	24
Field Values	
Additional Information	<p>The Old Provider Number variable is a unique license, but not a unique number. When a physician joined the registry (OPTIN) he/she was assigned a number. If that physician exited the registry (OPTOUT) then another physician could be assigned the same doctor number (OPTIN). In other words, the old doctor number is 'recycled', and this leads to some duplication.</p> <p>For the above reasons Old Provider Number (<i>olddoc</i>) is not available for release.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1998 - 2014
History	

Medical Board License Number

Variable Name	pmb
Label	Prov Medical Board Number
Definition	Encrypted provider's provincial medical board license number.
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	24
Field Values	Null Values: " "
Additional Information	<p>The license numbers (<i>pmb</i>) are unique identifiers within each provider type and are the numbers assigned by each provider's Provincial Licensing Board (e.g. For provider types of 'NS physician' the licensing board would be the NS College of Physicians and Surgeons).</p> <p>Example: A physician and a pharmacist may have the same license number (<i>pmb</i>), but two physicians will not have the same license number.</p> <p>For a unique ID between all doctor types refer to the provider ID (<i>doctor</i>) variable.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1998 – 2014
History	

Prescriber Indicator

Variable Name	rxflag
Label	Prescriber Indicator
Definition	Indicates if the provider is allowed to write prescriptions
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	Y (Yes) N (No)
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1998 - 2014
History	

Sex

Variable Name	sex
Label	Provider Gender
Definition	Provider's sex
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	1
Field Values (Label)	F (Female) M (Male)
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1995 - 2014
History	In the 1995 dataset the field values are: 1 Male 2 Female

Provider Specialties

Variable Name	spec_str
Label	List of Specialties Received
Definition	List of specialties associated with the provider
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	19
Field Values (Label)	ANAE (Anaesthetist) ANPA (Anatomical Pathology) CARD (Cardiology) CASG (Cardiovasc/Thoracic Surgery) COMD (Community Medicine) DENT (Dental General Practitioner) DERM (Dermatology) DIRD (Diagnostic Radiology) EMMD (Emergency Medicine) ENDO (Endodontics) ENME (Endocrinology and Metabolism) GAST (Gastroenterology) GEMD (Geriatric Medicine) GENP (General Practitioner) GNSG (General Surgery) HAGY (Haematology) HAPA (Haematology Pathology) HUGE (Human Genetics) INDI (Infectious Diseases) INMD (Internal Medicine) MDON (Medical Oncology) MEBI (Medical Biochemistry) MEGE (Medical Genetics) MEMI (Medical Microbiology) NCMD (Nuclear Medicine) NEPA (Neuropathology) NEPE (Neurology Paediatric) NEPH (Nephrology) NEUR (Neurology) NMSI (Non-MSI) NUSG (Neurosurgery) OBGY (Obstetrics & Gynaecology) ODON (Orthodontics) OPHT (Ophthalmology) OPTO (Optometry) ORPA (Oral Pathologist) ORAL (Oral Surgery) ORTH (Orthopaedic Surgery)

	<p>OTOL (Otolaryngology) PATH (General Pathology) PEDI (Pediatrics) PEDO (Pedodontics) PERI (Periodontics) PHMD (Physical Medicine & Rehab) PLAS (Plastic Surgery) PROS (Prosthodontics) PSYC (Psychiatry) RADI (Diagnostic & Ther Radiology) RDON (Radiation Oncology) RSMD (Respiratory Medicine) THSG (Thoracic Surgery) UROL (Urology) VASG (Vascular Surgery)</p>
Additional Information	<p>A provider may have accreditation for multiple specialties. All specialties received are listed in this variable as a space delimited string of four digit specialty values</p> <p>e.g. "OPTO GENP DERM" is a provider accredited with the optometrist, general practitioner, and Dermatology specializations.</p> <p>The Non MSI format is usually assigned to interns who are not getting paid in the MSI system but may be required to submit claims for patients as part of their internship</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1998 - 2014
History	

Variables in the EDUC Dataset

Provider ID

Variable Name	doctor
Label	New Provider ID (6 Digit)
Definition	Encrypted provider identification number
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	24
Field Values	Null Values: “ ”
Additional Information	<p>Provider IDs are not available for release due to confidentiality reasons. They are used internally by HDNS for data linkage.</p> <p>In some cases a valid provider ID is not available. As a result the field will either be left blank or filled with a “dummy” ID. Observations containing a dummy ID, or a null value may not need to be excluded if a project’s scope does not need to identify individual providers.</p> <p>Unique IDs can be generated by HDNS for research projects which can be used to link between datasets or count observations of individuals.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1998 - 2014
History	

Specialty Received

Variable Name	dspecial
Label	Specialty Received
Definition	Specialties accredited in medical school
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	4
Field Values (Label)	ANAE (Anaesthetist) ANPA (Anatomical Pathology) CARD (Cardiology) CASG (Cardiovasc/Thoracic Surgery) COMD (Community Medicine) DENT (Dental General Practitioner) DERM (Dermatology) DIRD (Diagnostic Radiology) EMMD (Emergency Medicine) ENDO (Endodontics) ENME (Endocrinology and Metabolism) GAST (Gastroenterology) GEMD (Geriatric Medicine) GENP (General Practitioner) GNSG (General Surgery) HAGY (Haematology) HAPA (Haematology Pathology) HUGE (Human Genetics) INDI (Infectious Diseases) INMD (Internal Medicine) MDON (Medical Oncology) MEBI (Medical Biochemistry) MEGE (Medical Genetics) MEMI (Medical Microbiology) NCMD (Nuclear Medicine) NEPA (Neuropathology) NEPE (Neurology Paediatric) NEPH (Nephrology) NEUR (Neurology) NMSI (Non-MSI) NUSG (Neurosurgery) OBGY (Obstetrics & Gynaecology) ODON (Orthodontics) OPHT (Ophthalmology) OPTO (Optometry) ORAL (Oral Surgery) ORPA (Oral Pathologist) ORTH (Orthopaedic Surgery)

	<p>OTOL (Otolaryngology) PATH (General Pathology) PEDI (Pediatrics) PEDO (Pedodontics) PERI (Periodontics) PHMD (Physical Medicine & Rehab) PLAS (Plastic Surgery) PROS (Prosthodontics) PSYC (Psychiatry) RADI (Diagnostic & Ther Radiology) RDON (Radiation Oncology) RHEU (Rheumatology) RSMD (Respiratory Medicine) THSG (Thoracic Surgery) UROL (Urology) VASG (Vascular Surgery)</p>
Additional Information	<p>Physicians who graduate from more than one program will have multiple observations of specialty received (<i>dspecial</i>).</p> <p>The Non MSI format is usually assigned to interns who are not getting paid in the MSI system but may be required to submit claims for patients as part of their internship</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1998 - 2014
History	

Graduation Year

Variable Name	gradyear
Label	Year of Graduation
Definition	Year the provider graduated from Med School
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	3
Field Values	
Additional Information	Physicians who graduate from more than one program will have multiple observations of graduation year (<i>gradyear</i>).
Dates Available	Fiscal 1998 - 2014
History	

School Location

Variable Name	location
Label	Med School Location
Definition	The location of the medical school the provider attended
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	3
Field Values (Label)	34 (HALIFAX CITY) 100 (NEWFOUNDLAND) 103 (QUEBEC) 104 (ONTARIO) 105 (MANITOBA) 106 (SASKATCHEWAN) 107 (ALBERTA) 108 (BRITISH COLUMBIA) 120 (USA) 130 (MEXICO) 140 (ARGENTINA) 142 (BRAZIL) 144 (COLUMBIA) 145 (CUBA) 146 (ECUADOR) 148 (PERU) 160 (OTHER AMERICA) 170 (ENGLAND) 171 (SCOTLAND) 172 (NORTHERN IRELAND) 173 (UNITED KINGDOM - OR OTHER NOT SPECIFIED) 175 (IRELAND) 200 (AUSTRIA) 201 (BELGIUM) 202 (BULGARIA) 203 (CZECHOSLOVAKIA) 206 (FRANCE) 207 (GERMANY) 208 (GREECE) 209 (HUNGARY) 211 (ITALY) 212 (LATVIA) 213 (MALTA) 214 (NETHERLANDS) 216 (POLAND) 218 (RUMANIA) 219 (SPAIN) 220 (SWEDEN)

221	(SWITZERLAND)
222	(YUGOSLAVIA)
250	(AFGHANISTAN)
251	(BURMA)
252	(SRI LANKA)
253	(CHINA)
254	(INDIA)
256	(IRAN)
257	(IRAQ)
258	(ISRAEL)
260	(KOREA)
261	(LEBANON)
263	(PAKISTAN / BANGLADESH)
264	(PHILLIPINES)
265	(SYRIA)
267	(TURKEY)
269	(ASIA - OTHER)
301	(EGYPT (U.A.R.))
302	(GHANA)
304	(NIGERIA)
305	(UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA)
307	(AFRICA - OTHER)
308	(SAUDI ARABIA)
400	(AUSTRALIA)
401	(NEW ZEALAND)
402	(U.S.S.R.)
403	(WEST INDIES)
499	(OTHER OR UNKNOWN)
507	(EGYPT)
513	(UNKNOWN)

Additional Information	Physicians who graduate from more than one program will have multiple observations of school location (<i>location</i>).
Dates Available	Fiscal 1998 - 2014
History	

Medical School

Variable Name	school
Label	Med School Name
Definition	Name of medical school the provider attended
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	3
Field Values (Label)	1 (MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY) 2 (DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY) 3 (UNIVERSITE LAVAL) 4 (UNIVERSITE DE SHERBROOKE) 5 (UNIVERSITE DE MONTREAL) 6 (MCGILL UNIVERSITY) 7 (UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA) 8 (QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY) 9 (UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO) 10 (MCMASTER UNIVERSITY) 11 (UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO) 12 (UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA) 13 (UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN) 14 (UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA) 15 (UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY) 16 (UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA) 17 (ONTARIO UNIVERSITY) 19 (U.S.A) 20 (MEXICO) 27 (COLUMBIA) 31 (PERU) 33 (OTHER AMERICA) 34 (LONDON UNIVERSITY) 35 (EDINBURGH) 36 (NORTHERN IRELAND) 37 (UNITED KINGDOM) 38 (IRELAND (REPUBLIC)) 39 (POLAND) 40 (FRANCE) 42 (DIPLOMA GENERAL MEDICINE) 43 (CZECHOSLOVAKIA) 44 (GERMANY, FED. REP. OF) 45 (U.S.S.R) 47 (BELGIUM) 48 (HUNGARY) 50 (INNSBRUCK) 51 (BULGARIA) 56 (ROYAL UNIV) 57 (FREE UNIVERSITY- AMSTERDAM)

60	(SWEDEN)
61	(SWITZERLAND)
62	(YUGOSLAVIA)
64	(INDIA)
66	(LEBANON)
67	(SANTO THOMAS)
68	(PAKISTAN/BANGLADESH)
69	(SYRIA)
76	(BURMA)
77	(SRI LANKA)
78	(CHINA)
80	(IRAQ)
81	(KOREA)
84	(UNIVERSITY OF ISTANBUL)
85	(ASIA - OTHER)
86	(AUSTRALIA)
87	(NEW ZEALAND)
89	(EGYPT)
90	(SOUTH AFRICIA, REP. OF)
92	(NIGERIA)
97	(AFRICA - OTHER)
98	(QUEBEC UNIVERSITY)
100	(UNKNOWN)
102	(WEST INDIES)
150	(BRISTOL)
151	(CAMBRIDGE)
152	(OXFORD)
153	(BIRMINGHAM)
154	(ABERDEEN)
155	(GLASGOW)
156	(ST. ANDREW'S)
158	(BOMBAY)
159	(VIKRAM)
160	(RAJASTHAN)
164	(PUNJAB)
165	(MADRAS)
167	(OSMANIA MED COLLEGE)
169	(KERALA)
170	(MYSORE)
176	(NATIONAL UNIV IRELAND)
177	(DUBLIN)
185	(CEYLON)
189	(WARSAW)
195	(OTAGO)
196	(QUEENS / IRELAND)
198	(UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO)
199	(DURHAM)
201	(NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE)
206	(FREE UNIV W BERLIN)
208	(NATIONAL TAIWAN)

217	(CHICAGO)
222	(TRIVANDRAUM)
223	(BANGALORE)
225	(CALCUTTA)
229	(ALEXANDRIA)
230	(ATHENS)
231	(LIVERPOOL)
232	(IOWA)
233	(COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY)
234	(CAIRO)
235	(ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYS & SURGS OF CANADA)
236	(LEEDS)
238	(MANCHESTER)
242	(SOUTHAMPTON)
243	(LEICEITER)
246	(UNIV OF DUNDEE)
248	(TRINITY COLLEGE)
249	(ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURG-IRELAND)
250	(FAR EASTERN)
251	(MANILA CENTRAL)
252	(SOUTHWESTERN UNIV)
255	(KARACHI)
257	(KING EDWARD MEDICAL COLLEGE)
260	(POONA)
271	(GAJRA RAJA)
277	(UNIV OF COLOMBO)
280	(ROYAL COLLEGE OF CANADA)
282	(MEDICAL DOCTOR)
286	(CHARLES UNIV)
290	(UNIV OF ADELAIDE)
299	(TUFTS MED SCHOOL)
305	(BROWN)
306	(COLORADO)
313	(ROCHESTER)
314	(NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE)
326	(MED ACADEMY - LUBLIN)
328	(SILESIAN ACADEMY)
338	(GARYOUNIS)
341	(UNIV COLLEGE CORK)
344	(UNIV OF WITWATERSRAN)
345	(STELLENBOSCH)
347	(UNIV OF AMSTERDAN)
348	(AIN SHAMS)
361	(UNIV OF WALES)
362	(ST GEORGES UNIV)
363	(UNKNOWN UNIV)
364	(RUPRECHT KARL UNIV)
365	(WAYNE STATE UNIV)
366	(AUTONOMOUS NICARAGUAN NATIONAL UNIV)
367	(UNIV OF KASHMIR)

	368 (SOUTH GUJARAT UNIV) 369 (FERRIS STATE UNIV COLLEGE OF OPTOM) 370 (COMENIUS UNIV)
Additional Information	Providers who graduate from more than one program will have multiple observations of medical school (<i>school</i>).
Dates Available	Fiscal 1998 - 2014
History	

Variables in the OPTIN Dataset

Provider ID

Variable Name	doctor
Label	Provider ID
Definition	Encrypted provider identification number
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	24
Field Values	Null Values: “ ”
Additional Information	<p>Provider IDs are not available for release due to confidentiality reasons. They are used internally by HDNS for data linkage.</p> <p>In some cases a valid provider ID is not available. As a result the field will either be left blank or filled with a “dummy” ID. Observations containing a dummy ID, or a null value may not need to be excluded if a project’s scope does not need to identify individual providers.</p> <p>Unique IDs can be generated by HDNS for research projects which can be used to link between datasets or count observations of individuals.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1998 - 2014
History	

Provider Type

Variable Name	doctype
Label	Provider Type
Definition	The category of the observed provider
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	2
Field Values (Label)	DE (Dentist) MW (Midwife) NP (Nurse Practitioner) OP (Optometrist) PH (Physician) PP (Out-Of-Prov) PR (Prosthetics) Null Values: None
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1999 - 2014
History	

Opt-In Date

Variable Name	optin
Label	
Definition	The start date the provider is licensed to practice in Nova Scotia for this record of eligibility.
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	4
Field Values	
Additional Information	Opt-in date (<i>optin</i>) is stored in the SAS date format, which is a value that represents the number of days between January 1, 1960, and a specified date. Dates before January 1, 1960, are negative numbers; dates after are positive numbers.
Dates Available	Fiscal 1999 - 2014
History	

Opt-Out Date

Variable Name	optout
Label	
Definition	The date the provider's license to practice in Nova Scotia expires for this record of eligibility.
Data Type	NUM
Data Element Length	4
Field Values	
Additional Information	<p>Dates in the year 3000+ do not have a set expiration date as of the most current year of data.</p> <p>Opt-out date (<i>optout</i>) is stored in the SAS date format, which is a value that represents the number of days between January 1, 1960, and a specified date. Dates before January 1, 1960, are negative numbers; dates after are positive numbers.</p>
Dates Available	Fiscal 1999 - 2014
History	

Program Code

Variable Name	program
Label	
Definition	Insured program the provider is licenced to practice under
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	2
Field Values (Label)	HD (Home Dialysis) MC (Medicare) Null Values: None
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1999 - 2014
History	

Discontinued Variables

Community Size

Variable Name	Csize
Label	Physician community size
Definition	Population of community in which the physician practices.
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	
Field Values	
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1995
History	Discontinued from the DOCS dataset

Unique ID

Variable Name	uniqueid
Label	Unique Physician ID
Definition	24 character encrypted provider ID
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	24
Field Values	
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1995
History	Discontinued from the DOCS dataset

Provider ID

Variable Name	doctor1
Label	Physician Main Number
Definition	24 character encrypted provider ID
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	24
Field Values	
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1995
History	Discontinued from the DOCS dataset Replaced by <i>doctor</i> in 1998

Medical Board Number

Variable Name	doctor2
Label	Prov Medical Board Num
Definition	24 character encrypted billing license number.
Data Type	CHAR
Data Element Length	24
Field Values	
Additional Information	
Dates Available	Fiscal 1995
History	Discontinued from the DOCS dataset Replaced by <i>pmb</i> in 1998

End of Document.