# How To - Downloads

Last Updated: June 24, 2021

# Downloads Page – License Agreement

- ❖ The Downloads Page provides users the option to download select data sets of the data available on the MCD for use in research endeavors.
- ❖To access the Downloads Page, users must first agree to the AMA/ADA license agreement (partially shown to the right), because the Local Coverage data sets contain CPT/HCPCS coding information.

#### License Agreements

Please review and accept the agreements in order to view Medicare Coverage documents, which may include licensed information and codes.

### LICENSE FOR USE OF PHYSICIANS' CURRENT PROCEDURAL TERMINOLOGY, FOURTH EDITION ("CPT")

#### End User Point and Click Amendment:

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Applicable FARS\DFARS Restrictions Apply to Government Use.

LAccept

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# Downloads Page – Data Sets

#### MCD Downloads

You can download local and national coverage document data sets. Each download zip package contains a Read Me file, a data set, and an associated Data Dictionary. Older versions of LCDs and Articles may exist but are not included in the MCD and Downloads; please see the MCD Archive<sup>™</sup>.



#### Current LCDs

A data set of the most current, in effect (or future effective), Local Coverage Determination (LCD) versions. CPT/HCPCS, ICD-10, Bill Type, and Revenue codes are now found in Articles, not LCDs (except for DME LCDs which may contain CPT/HCPCS codes). LCD attachments are not available in the download data sets, but may be accessed by viewing the individual LCDs in the MCD.

Data as of: 06/13/2021 Released: 06/17/2021

◆ Download Data Dictionary | ◆ Download Data



#### Current and Retired LCDs

A data set of the most current, in effect (or future effective) and retired, Local Coverage Determination (LCD) versions. CPT/HCPCS, ICD-10, Bill Type, and Revenue codes are now found in Articles, not LCDs (except for DME LCDs which may contain CPT/HCPCS codes). LCD attachments are not available in the download data sets, but may be accessed by viewing the individual LCDs in the MCD.

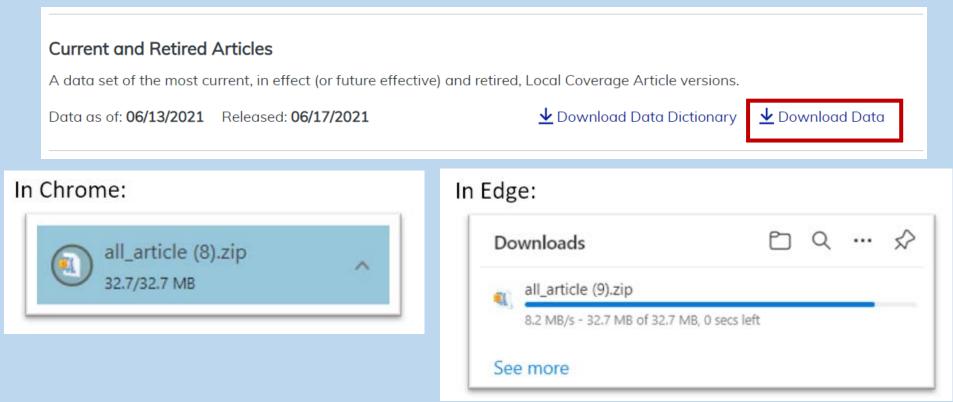
Data as of: 06/13/2021 Released: 06/17/2021

◆ Download Data Dictionary | ◆ Download Data

- On the Downloads page, there are five Data Sets available for download.
- Each download zip package contains a Read Me file, a Data Set, and a Data Dictionary.
- Only the most recent version of the documents are included in the Data Sets. Attachments are not included.
- ❖ You can also Download All Data at once or select the Download Data Dictionary Only.
- The Data As Of date indicates when the data was captured. The Released date indicates when the data was published on the MCD.

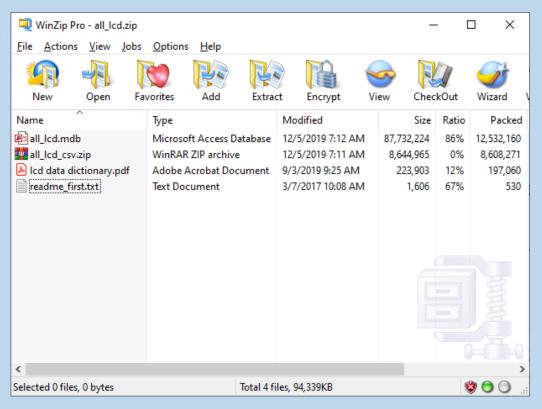
# Downloads Page – Downloading a Data Set

- ❖ To download one of the Data Set ZIP files, simply click on the Download Data link next to the Data Set you want. The Current and Retired Articles Data Set is used for the following example.
- ❖ Depending on your browser settings, you may be prompted to Open or Save the file. Always choose to Save the file, so that you can unzip it at your leisure.



## Downloads Page – Downloading a Data Set – Part 2

- ❖ Once you've downloaded the ZIP file, extract the contents using the tool of your choice (e.g., WinZIP, PKUNZIP, 7zip, etc.)
- \* Regardless of the file you've downloaded, there will be four files within the ZIP file:
  - ❖ A Microsoft Access file
  - ❖ Another ZIP file, containing CSV (comma separated values) files
  - ❖ A Data Dictionary file in PDF format
  - A Readme file (readme\_first.txt)

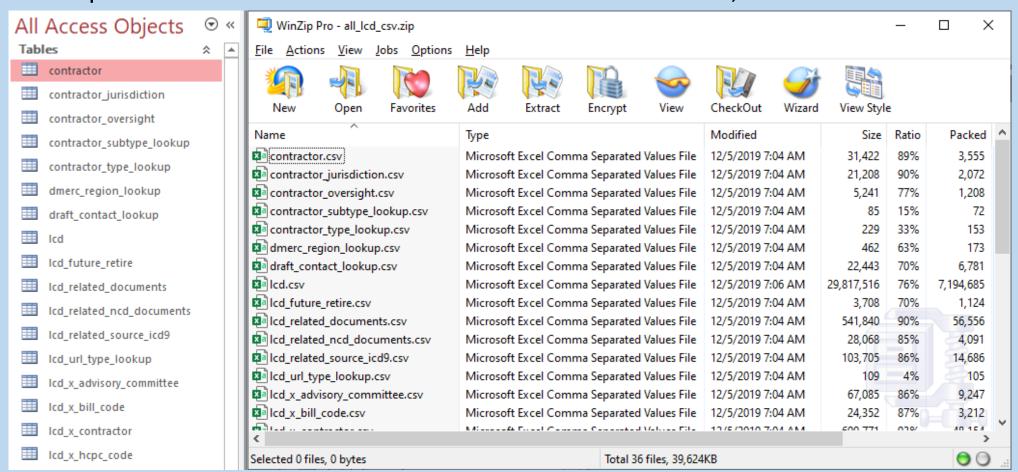


# Downloads Page – Data Set File Details

- ❖ If this is the first time you've downloaded a Data Set, start with the Readme file (readme\_first.txt), as it gives more information on obtaining the programs needed to view the PDF, Access, and CSV files.
- The Data Sets themselves are divided up into multiple data tables. Each Data Set has one primary table, and multiple crosswalk and lookup tables.
- The Data Dictionary PDF provides in-depth information on the data tables contained in the Data Sets and their relationships to one another.
- The Microsoft Access file (.MDB) is the best way to utilize the Data Sets, as all the tables are stored in one file, and can be queried using SQL (Structured Query Language).
- The CSV files are available for use, in the event you do not have Microsoft Access.
  - ❖ There is one CSV file per data table from the Access file.
  - ❖ To use them, unzip the "\_CSV.ZIP" file from the main ZIP file you've downloaded.

# Downloads Page – Data Set File Details – Part 2

\* Example of the Current and Retired LCDs Access data tables, and CSV data table files:



# Downloads Page – Understanding the Data Sets

- To get the most out of the Data Sets for your research goals, it helps to have a basic understanding of relational databases.
- ❖The main goal of a relational database is to reduce the amount of repeated data.
  - ❖ For example, let's say your Contract Number has 5 States associated to it. This would require one row of data for each State, for a total of five rows in a data table.
  - ❖ If we put everything into the same table, this would require five rows of every piece of information for that Contract Number, so things like the Contractor Name or the Address would be repeated verbatim five times in the data table, to support five different States.
  - However, if we put the pieces of information that would be the same for each of those five rows (Contractor Name, Address, etc.) into one table, and the five States in a separate table, then we would only need one row in the first table, and five rows in the second.
    Contract/State Data

### All Data

A	В	С	D	F
1	Contract Number	Contractor Name	Address	State Abbreviation
2	55555	Sample Contract	555 N. Main St.	AK
3	55555	Sample Contract	555 N. Main St.	AL
4	55555	Sample Contract	555 N. Main St.	AR
5	55555	Sample Contract	555 N. Main St.	AS
6	55555	Sample Contract	555 N. Main St.	AZ

	Contract Data						
	4	В	С	D			
S.	1	Contract Number	Contractor Name	Address			
	2	55555	Sample Contract	555 N. Main St.			
	_	00000	oumpre contract	000141114111041			

$\mathbf{A}$	Α	С	
1	Contract Number	State Abbreviation	
2	55555	AK	
3	55555	AL	
4	55555	AR	
5	55555	AS	
6	55555	AZ	

# Downloads Page – Understanding the Data Sets – Part 2

Taking a closer look at the two tables, notice that the State table also has the Contract Number column as well.

Contract/State Data

	Con	tract Data		A	С	
	COI	itiact Data	1	Contract Number	State Abbreviation	
$\square$	В	С	D	2	55555	AK
1	Contract Number	Contractor Name	Address	3	55555	AL
2	55555	Sample Contract	555 N. Main St.	4	55555	AR
				5	55555	AS
				6	55555	AZ

- ❖ Using this shared column, also called a Key Column, we can relate the data in different tables together (thus the term relational database).
- ❖ We can even recreate the single table by combining the two tables together using the Key Column to line up the rows.

Jainad Data

❖ This is also known as a Table Join.

	Joined Data								
A	В	С	D	F					
1	Contract Number	Contractor Name	Address	State Abbreviation					
2	55555	Sample Contract	555 N. Main St.	AK					
3	55555	Sample Contract	555 N. Main St.	AL					
4	55555	Sample Contract	555 N. Main St.	AR					
5	55555	Sample Contract	555 N. Main St.	AS					
6	55555	Sample Contract	555 N. Main St.	AZ					

### Downloads Page – Primary vs. Crosswalk vs. Lookup Tables

- Where are the actual State names?
- \* Remember the main goal is to reduce repeated information.
- ❖ The Contract/State table has to store the data for all Contracts, so the States could be repeated many times within that table.
- This leads us to create a third table, that has the States and their descriptions.

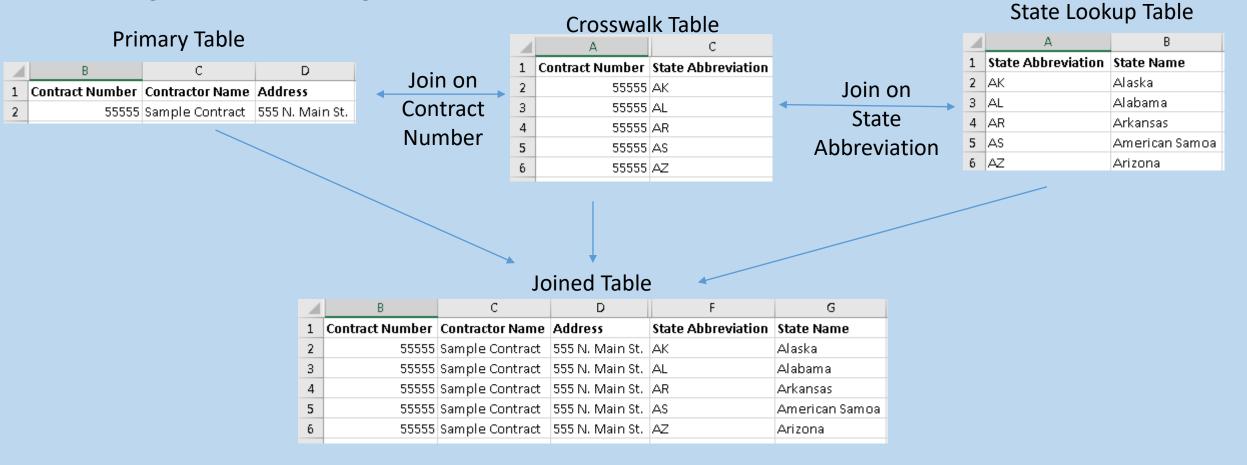
### State Data

4	А	В
1	State Abbreviation	State Name
2	AK	Alaska
3	AL	Alabama
4	AR	Arkansas
5	AS	American Samoa
6	AZ	Arizona

- Since our main focus is the Contract information, we refer to the Contract table as a Primary table.
- The State table with the descriptions is known as a Lookup table.
- Finally, the table that has both Contracts and States is known as Crosswalk table.

# Downloads Page – Primary vs. Crosswalk vs. Lookup

Using this concept of table separation and Key Columns, we can Join our three tables together into one big informative table.



# Downloads Page – Primary vs. Crosswalk vs. Lookup – Part 2

- Why don't we just store this Joined table?
- Doing so would increase the file size incredibly, as all the text would be repeated over and over again.
- Some notes on naming conventions:
  - Primary tables are generally just the name of the object you're looking for:
    - LCD
    - ❖ ARTICLE
    - **❖** CONTRACTOR
    - ❖ NCD
  - ❖ Lookup tables generally end with "LOOKUP" at the end:
    - ❖ STATE\_LOOKUP
    - ❖ CONTRACTOR TYPE LOOKUP
  - \* Crosswalk tables generally have an "\_X\_" in them to denote the two tables that are being Cross-walked (X-walked):
    - **❖** CONTRACTOR JURISDICTION
    - ❖ STATE\_X\_REGION

# Downloads Page – Using the Data Dictionary

- ❖ The Data Dictionary included in your Data Set download, is your absolute best friend when it comes to using the data.
- ❖ Each Data Dictionary contains an in-depth description of every table within the Microsoft Access file (which corresponds to every file within the CSV ZIP file), as well as a Table of Contents showing where to find the table you're looking for.
- Every table description has three parts, the list of columns in the table, the Primary Key Columns (a list of Key Columns that make each row unique), and the intended usage of the table.

Table Name  LCD  Table Structure	
Variable Name	Description
lcd_id	LCD system identifier. The LCD ID is derived from this identifier by adding the prefix "L". The exception is Draft LCDs which use the DISPLAY_ID field explained below.
lcd_version	LCD version number. A new version is created for an LCD each time the LCD is edited, approved or reactivated.
display_id	The ID for Draft LCDs is derived from this field by adding the prefix "DL". The LCD_ID field remains the system identifier for Draft LCDs.

Primary Keys
lcd_id
lcd_version
Usage
This is the primary LCD table and contains one record for each LCD. The record included is the most recent version (i.e., the max version) of the LCD that existed at the time of the download; historical versions are not included. Historical versions can only be accessed directly through the Medicare Coverage Database (MCD).
Important! Please note that this table contains Draft policies. These Draft policies can be identified by using the DISPLAY_ID field.

## Downloads Page – Using the Data Dictionary – Part 2

- The Usage section is the most important, as it includes information on what Key Columns to join to relate the tables together.
- ❖ For example, if you want to find the ICD-10 Codes that Support Medical Necessity for an Article, you would look in the ARTICLE\_X\_ICD10\_COVERED table's usage section:

### Usage

Join from table Article on article\_id, article\_version to retrieve the ICD-10 diagnosis codes that are covered for an Article.

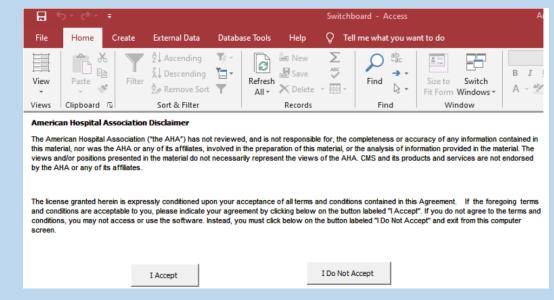
❖ Once you've found the tables you want to join together, you can then use the Microsoft Access file to accomplish this.

❖ When you first open one of the Microsoft Access files, you'll first need to click the "Enable Content" button in the yellow ribbon near the top of the program:



Once you've done that, you will then need to click the "I Accept" button on the resulting

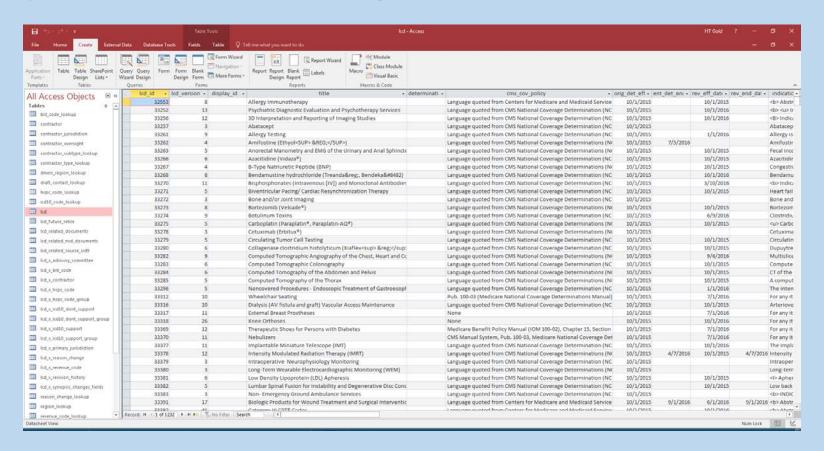
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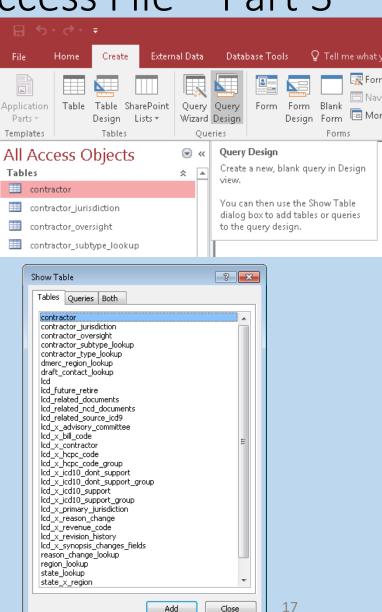
Once you've accepted the license, you'll get the list of tables.

❖ You can always just open a table and start browsing, but the best method is to create

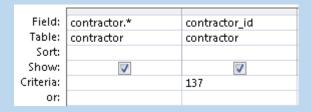
Queries.

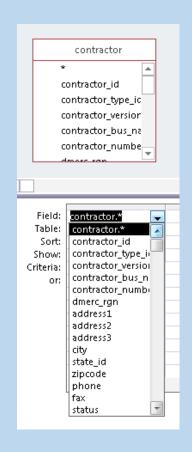


- Creating a Query allows us to utilize the information in the Data Dictionary.
- To create a Query, click on the Create->Query Design menu item.
- Let's start with a simple query to get used to the interface, selecting all the information in the Primary CONTRACTOR table for a particular Contract.
- To create a Query, click on the Create->Query Design menu item.
- You then select the tables you want to use, and click Add. ❖ In this case, it's just the CONTRACTOR table .
- Then click Close.

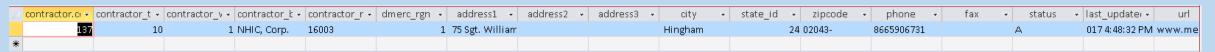


- To start, select the fields you would like to see, we'll chose all of them, represented by an asterisk (\*).
- Clicking the "View" button will just give you a list of all Contracts in the table, and all the columns.
- To get query results for one Contract in particular, we would select CONTRACTOR\_ID (this is an internal, database value) as another field and then put a value in the "Criteria" line.
  - For these examples, we're going to be using NHIC, Corp., 16003 (which has an internal DB CONTRACTOR\_ID of 137).

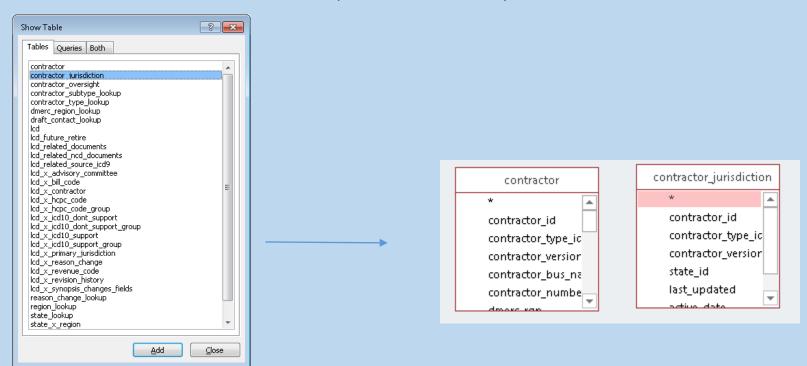




### **Results of Filtered Query**

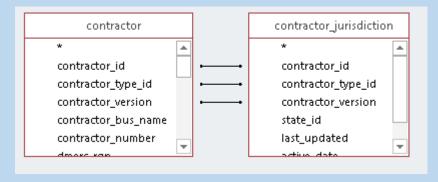


- Getting back to our first example, lets say we wanted to see all the States for 16003.
- ❖ We would start by selecting the CONTRACTOR\_JURISDICTION table from the "Show Table" popup to our query design.
  - Please note: If you run the Query now (by clicking the "View" button), you will get many more rows than anticipated, because we have not established the relationship between the tables yet.



- First, we need to establish the relationship between (JOINing them) the Primary CONTRACTOR table, and the CONTRACTOR\_JURISDICTION Crosswalk table.
- Going back to the Data Dictionary, we know that we need to use the CONTRACTOR\_ID, CONTRACTOR\_TYPE\_ID, and CONTRACTOR\_VERSION columns to JOIN them together.
- Drag the three columns over from one table to another to establish this.
- Then select the columns you'd like to see in the field list below.
  - ❖ Note that, similar to the internal CONTRACTOR ID, the States use an internal STATE ID

### JOIN Relationship



### Column List

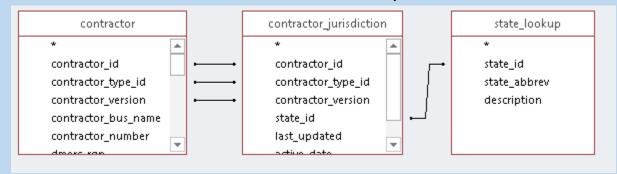
Field:	contractor_id	state_id
Table:	contractor	contractor_jurisdiction
Sort:		
Show:	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>
Criteria:	137	
or:		

#### **Results View**

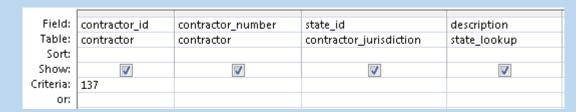
contractor_id	~	state_id	*
	137		38
	137		9
	137		55
	137		47
	137		41
	137		37
	137		26
	137		25
	137		24
	137		11
	137		10
	137		45

To then pull in the State names, add the STATE\_LOOKUP table, and JOIN on the STATE\_ID column (as noted in the Data Dictionary).

### **JOIN Relationship**



### Column List

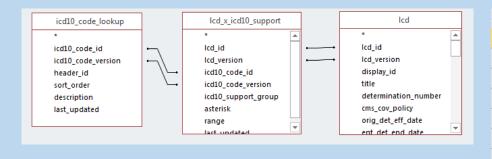


#### **Results View**

contractor_id 🔻	contractor_number 🕶	state_id →	description 🕶
137	16003	38	New Jersey
137	16003	9	Connecticut
137	16003	55	Vermont
137	16003	47	Rhode Island
137	16003	41	New York - Ent
137	16003	37	New Hampshir
137	16003	26	Maine
137	16003	25	Maryland
137	16003	24	Massachusetts
137	16003	11	Delaware
137	16003	10	District of Colu
137	16003	45	Pennsylvania

- Going in the reverse direction, another example is finding all the Contracts that have a particular State.
  - Note the Sort added.

### JOIN Relationship



#### **Results View**

District of Columbia 236 15004 CGS Administrators, LLC  10 District of Columbia 236 15004 CIGNA Government Services  10 District of Columbia 137 16003 NHIC, Corp.  10 District of Columbia 389 16013 Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	state_id 🔻	description 🕶	contractor_id 🕶	contractor_number -	contractor_bus_name +
10 District of Columbia 137 16003 NHIC, Corp. 10 District of Columbia 389 16013 Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	10	District of Columbia	236	15004	CGS Administrators, LLC
10 District of Columbia 389 16013 Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC	10	District of Columbia	236	15004	CIGNA Government Services
	10	District of Columbia	137	16003	NHIC, Corp.
	10	District of Columbia	389	16013	Noridian Healthcare Solutions, LLC
10 District of Columbia 320 12202 Novitas Solutions, Inc.	10	District of Columbia	320	12202	Novitas Solutions, Inc.
10 District of Columbia 315 12201 Novitas Solutions, Inc.	10	District of Columbia	315	12201	Novitas Solutions, Inc.
10 District of Columbia 324 12901 Novitas Solutions, Inc.	10	District of Columbia	324	12901	Novitas Solutions, Inc.

#### Column List



- \* That is the method used to get any of the data out of the Microsoft Access file.
- If you practice those two examples, you will be able to tailor any Query to meet your research needs, using the information in the Data Dictionaries.