

Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) Library

How do I calculate the interval between two dates?

You can use the [datediff function](#) in a calculated field to compute the interval (days, weeks, etc.) between two dates.

Pro Tip: Before you set up the datediff calculation, set the field validation for your source data. The function will not work if your source fields are not validated as dates.

Syntax for Calculation Equation: `datediff ([date1], [date2], "units", "dateformat", returnSignedValue)`

1. Options for "units":

- "y" (years, 1 year = 365.2425 days)
- "M" (months, 1 month = 30.44 days)
- "d" (days)
- "h" (hours)
- "m" (minutes)
- "s" (seconds)

2. Options for "dateformat":

The "dateformat" parameter must be "ymd", "mdy", or "dmy" which refer to the format of BOTH date/time fields as Y-M-D, M-D-Y, or D-M-Y, respectively. If not defined, it will default to "ymd".

3. Options for "returnSignedValue":

The parameter "returnSignedValue" must be either true or false (lowercase) and denotes whether you want the returned result to be either signed (have a minus in front if negative) or unsigned (absolute value), in which the default value is false, which returns the absolute value of the difference.

If returnSignedValue is set to true:

- The result will be negative if [date1] is larger than [date2].

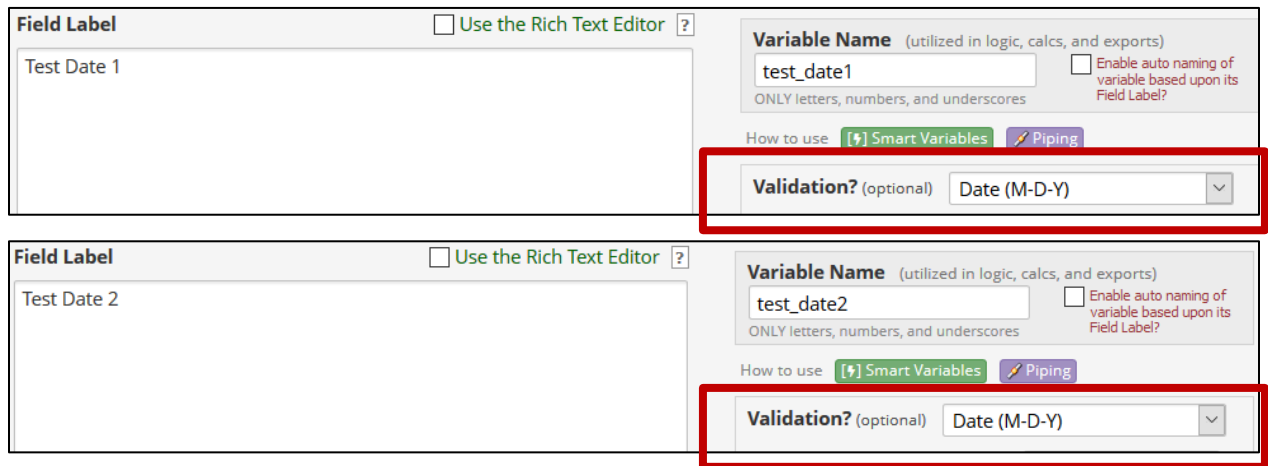
If returnSignedValue is set to false:

- The result will ALWAYS be a positive number.
- The order of the dates in the equation does not matter because the resulting value will always be positive (the + sign is implied and not displayed).

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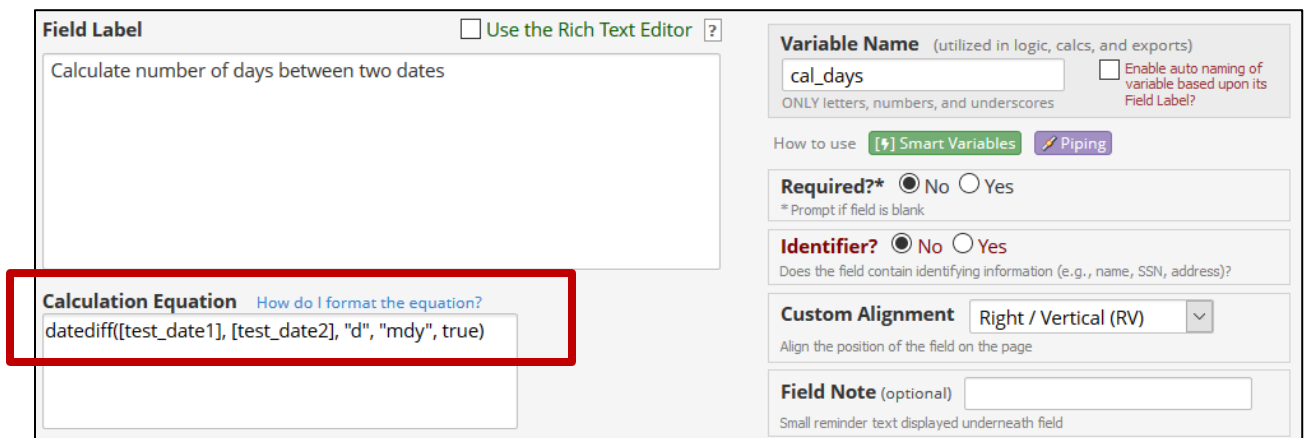
Example:

Step 1: Set up the source fields with date validation.



The image shows two examples of REDCap field configuration. Each example consists of a 'Field Label' section and a 'Variable Name' section. In both, the 'Validation?' dropdown is set to 'Date (M-D-Y)' and is highlighted with a red box.

Step 2: Set up the calculated field with the appropriate syntax.



The image shows the configuration for a calculated field. The 'Field Label' is 'Calculate number of days between two dates'. The 'Calculation Equation' field contains the syntax: `datediff([test_date1], [test_date2], "d", "mdy", true)`. This field is highlighted with a red box.