

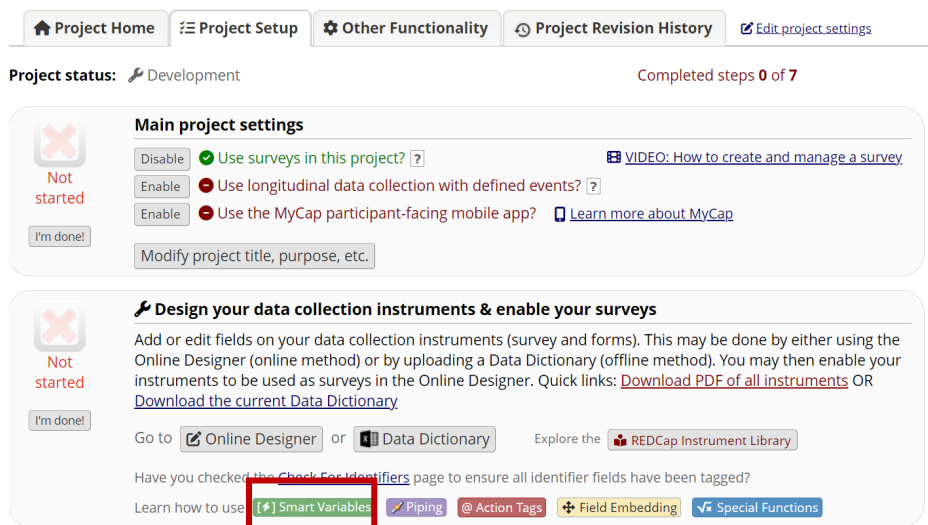
How do I reference data that aren't fields on a form?

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.

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

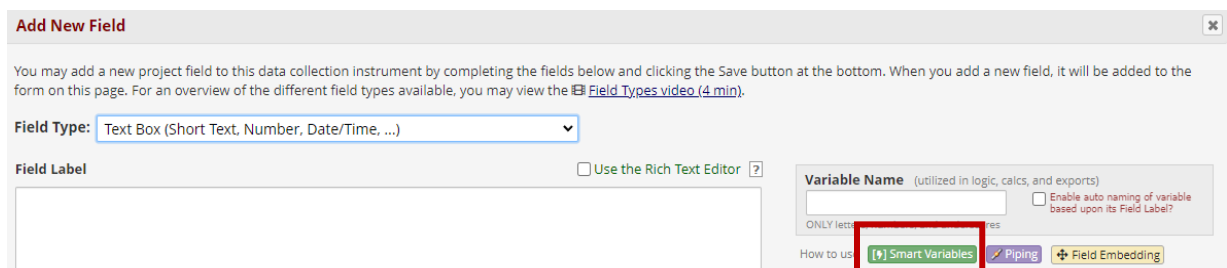
1. Clicking on the 'Smart Variables' button in the **Project Setup** menu option



The screenshot shows the 'Project Setup' menu in REDCap. The 'Smart Variables' button is highlighted with a red box. The menu includes options for 'Main project settings', 'Design your data collection instruments & enable your surveys', and 'Check for Identifiers'.

<< 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 area, and a 'Variable Name' 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.

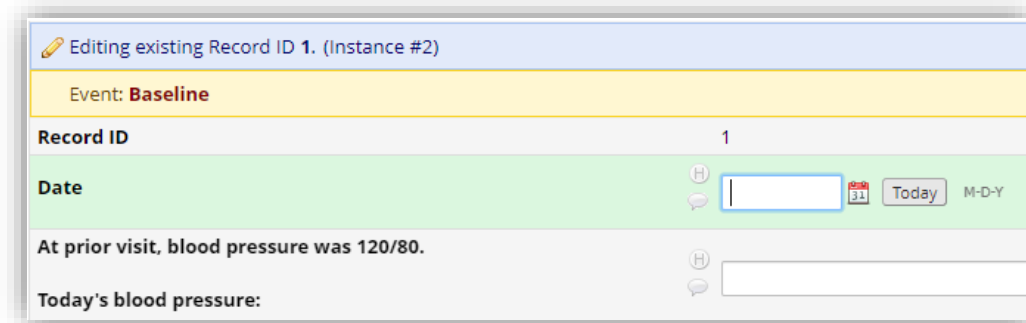
Example: Display data from the previous instance of a repeating form. [bp][previous-instance]

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.



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