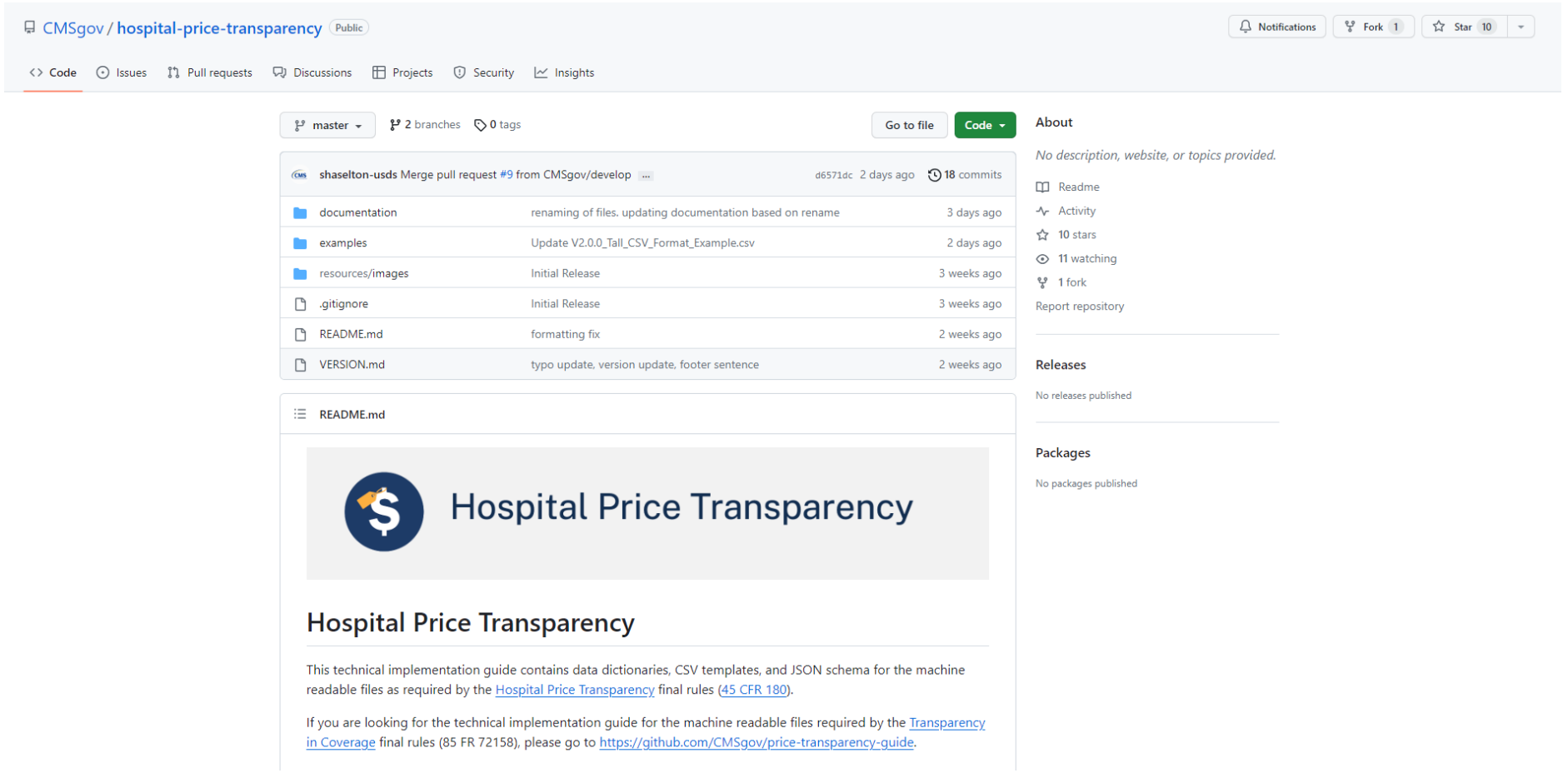
Navigating GitHub and the CMS Hospital Price Transparency – Data Dictionary GitHub Repository

CMS
CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES

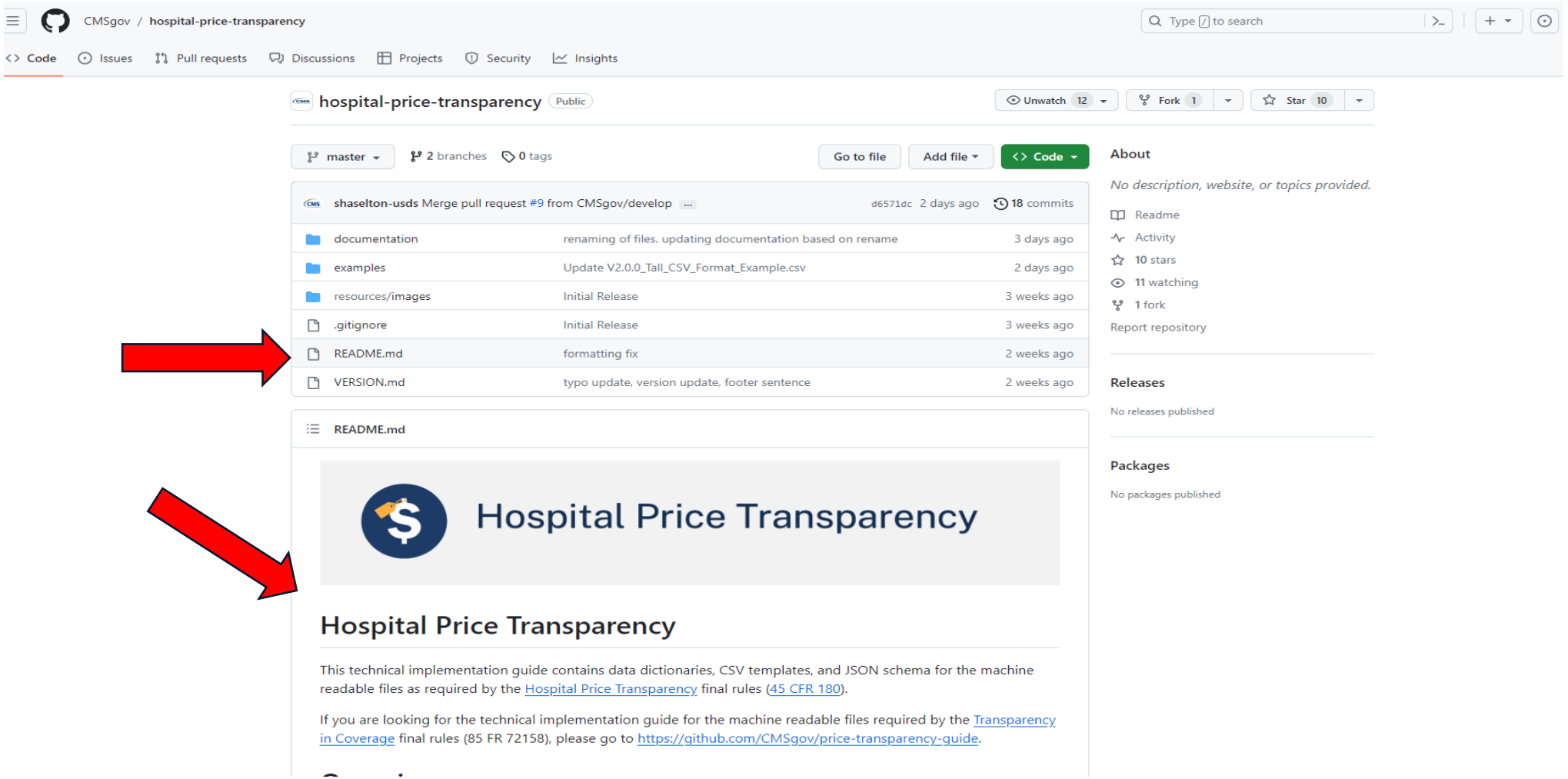
Data Dictionary GitHub Repository Homepage



Each Step in this Guide will start from the homepage found at:
https://github.com/CMSgov/hospital-price-transparency

View Resources and Implementation Timeline on Homepage

Step 1: Select the “README.md” file or scroll down the page



View Resources and Implementation Timeline on Homepage

Step 2: Find the Additional Resources and Implementation Timeline Sections

Additional Resources

Users should review the final rule(s) in their entirety as well as review any clarifying guidance provided on the Hospital Price Transparency Resources webpage to ensure compliance.

- Github Issues - Where people discuss issues related to the project.
- Github Discussions - Use these channels for conversational topics (for example, "How do I..." or "What do you think about..." instead of bug reports or feature requests).
- Hospital Price Transparency Tools - Link to webpage of tools to support hospitals in meeting the accessibility and MRF requirements including a MRF File Naming Wizard, a TXT File Generator, and a Validator V2.0 that tests against the required CMS template and data specifications.

Before posting a comment, issue, or question, please search through existing discussions and issues. There is a good chance that the topic in questions is already being discussed.

Policy questions can be directed to: PriceTransparencyHospitalCharges@cms.hhs.gov. Hospitals undergoing an enforcement action may direct questions to: HPTCompliance@cms.hhs.gov.

CMS Template Technical Requirements

This repository houses the required CMS templates, in a CSV "tall", CSV "wide" and JSON format, and provides the data dictionary, or technical instruction, on how hospitals must encode standard charge information into MRFs.

Schemas

The following is the technical documentation for the allowable formats:

- CSV
- JSON

Implementation Timeline

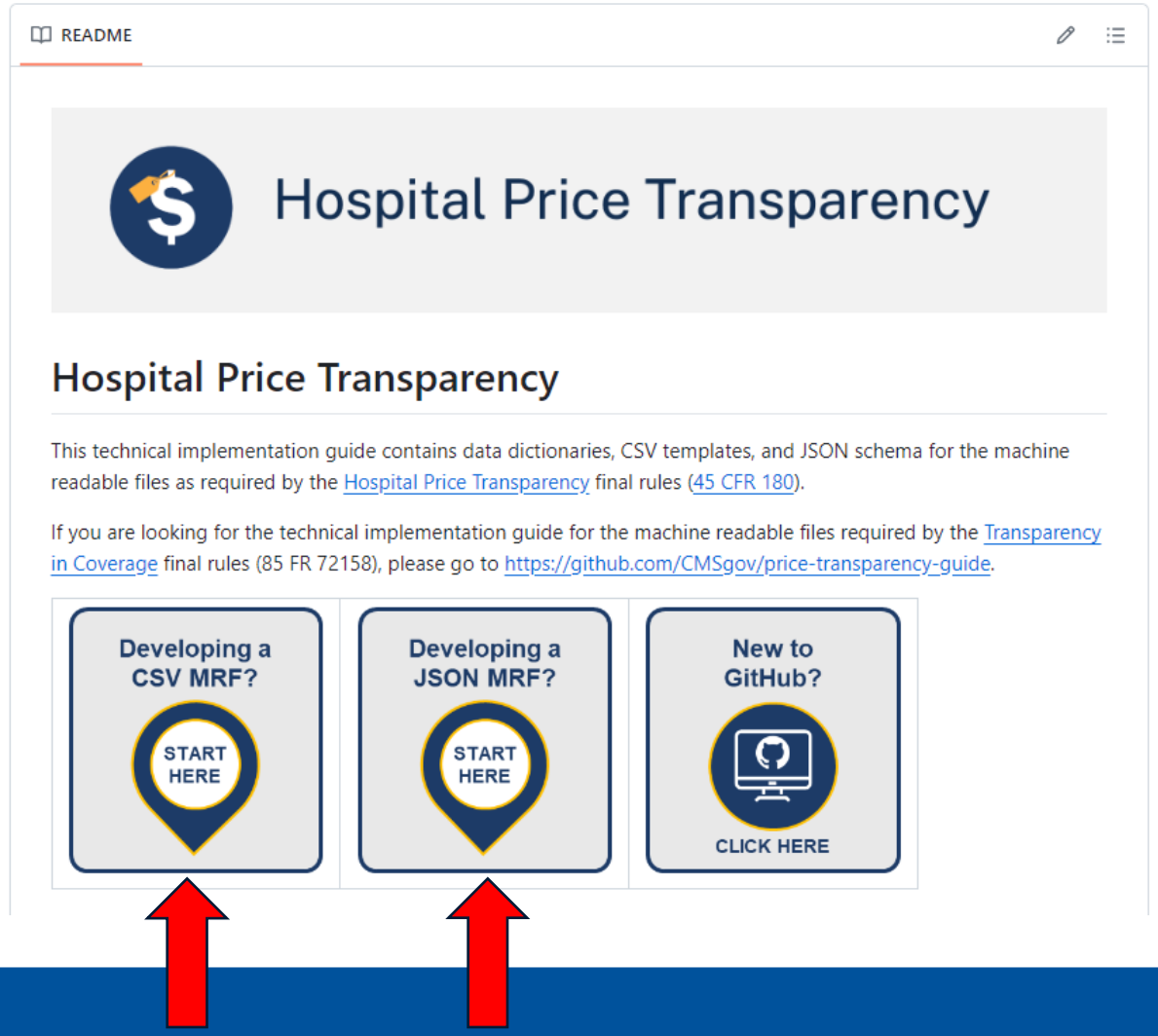
In the CY2024 OPPS/ASC Final Rule, CMS finalized a requirement for hospitals to adopt a CMS template and encode standard charge information for a subset of data elements by July 1, 2024, and all required data elements by January 1, 2025, as noted in the following tables:

CMS Template Required Data Elements and Enforcement Timeline

MRF Information

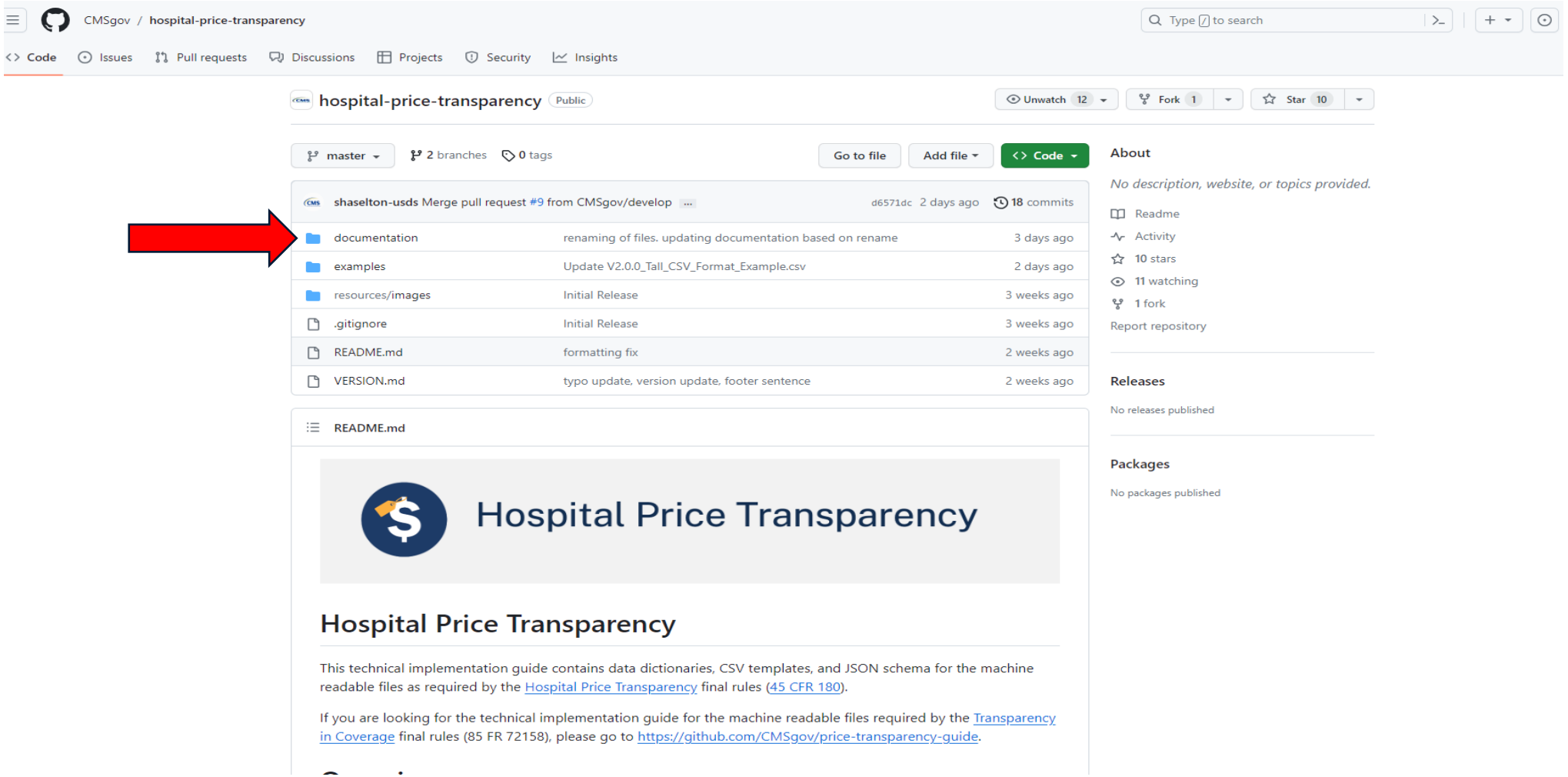
How to Access Data Dictionary (Implementation Documentation)

Quick Start: Select the Buttons on the Homepage to be directed to the CSV or JSON data dictionary



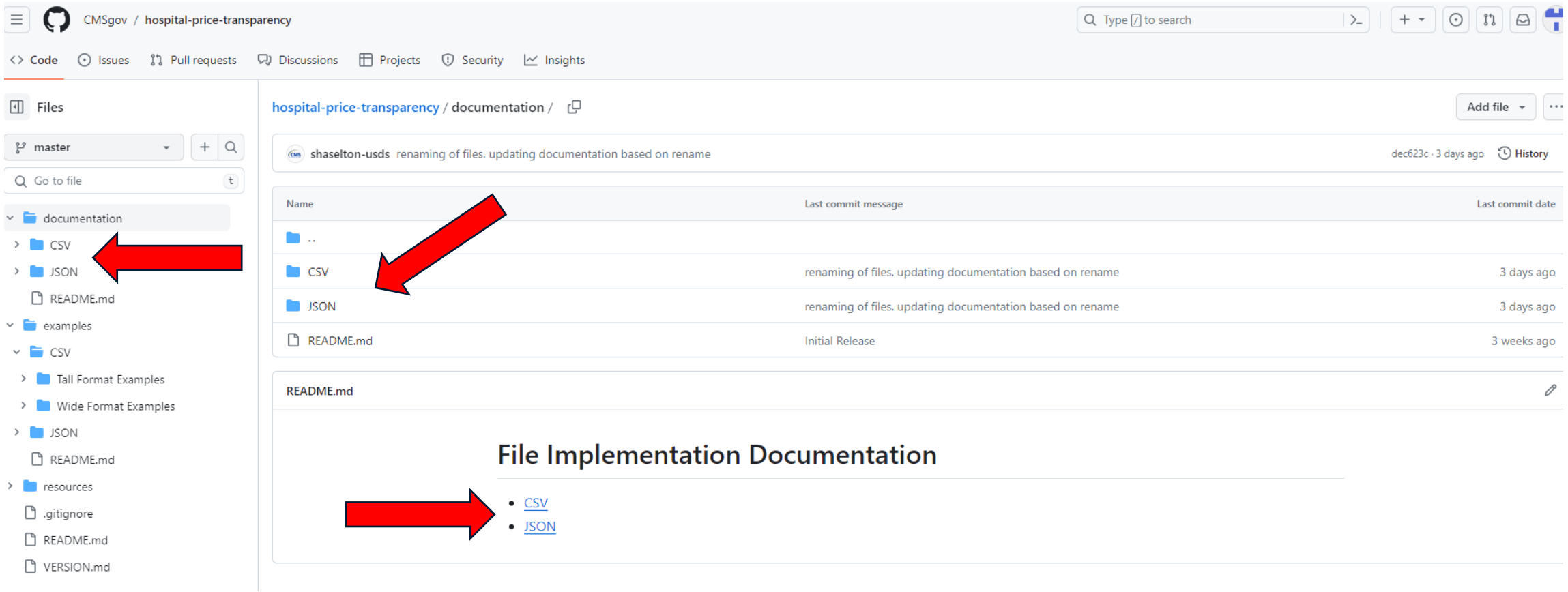
How to Access Data Dictionary (Implementation Documentation)

Step 1: From the homepage, select the “documentation” folder



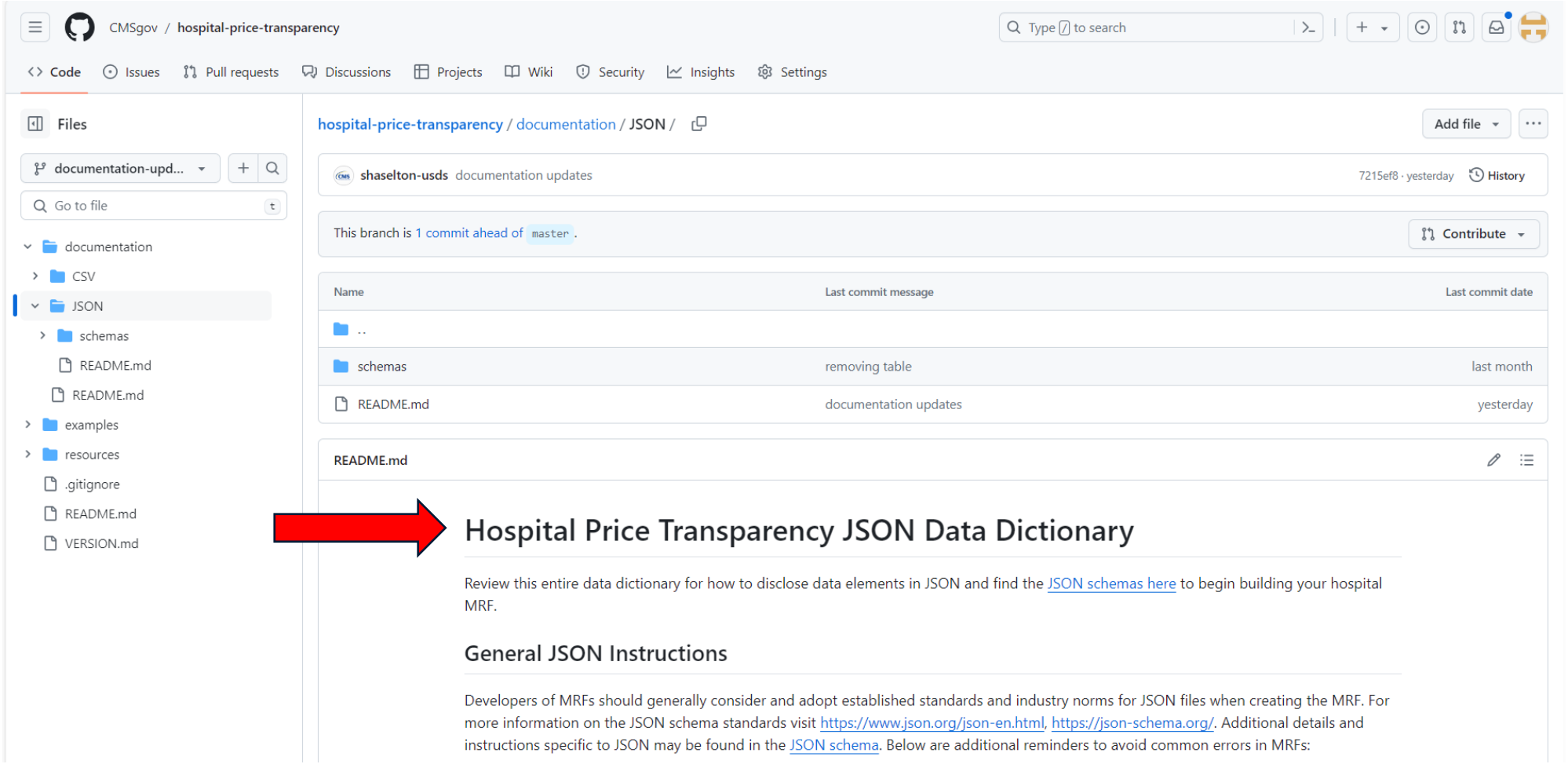
How to Access Data Dictionary (Implementation Documents)

Step 2: Select either the CSV or JSON data dictionary from one of many places



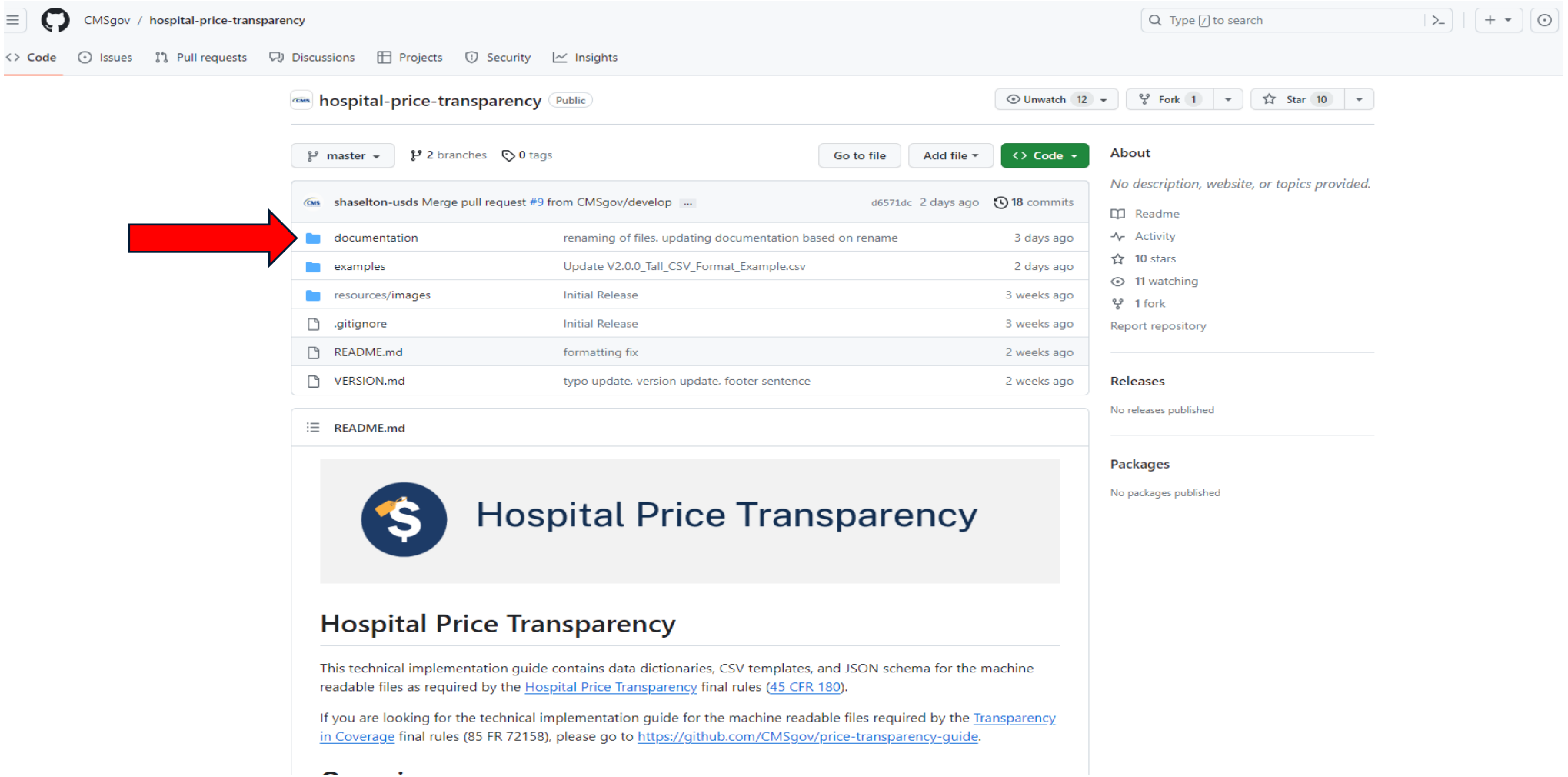
How to Access Data Dictionary (Implementation Documents)

Step 3: Read the CSV or JSON data dictionary before building your MRF



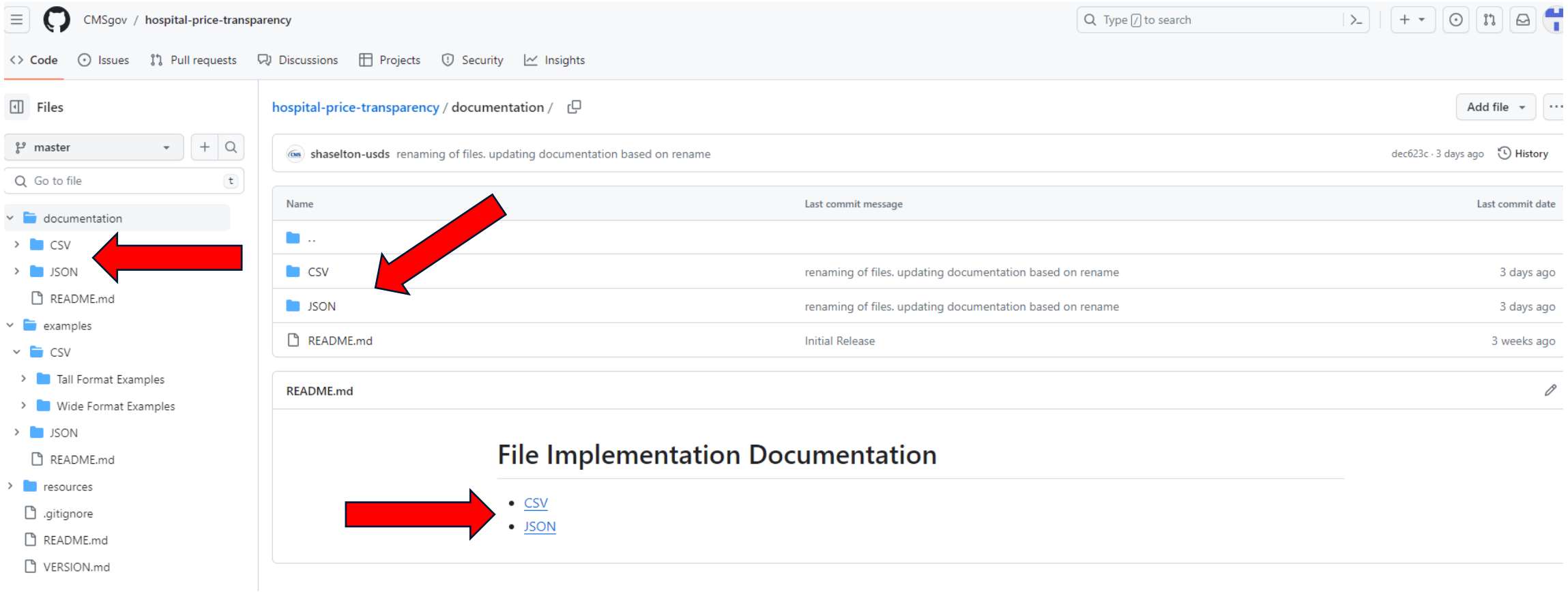
How to Access and Download Templates

Step 1: From the homepage, select the “documentation” folder



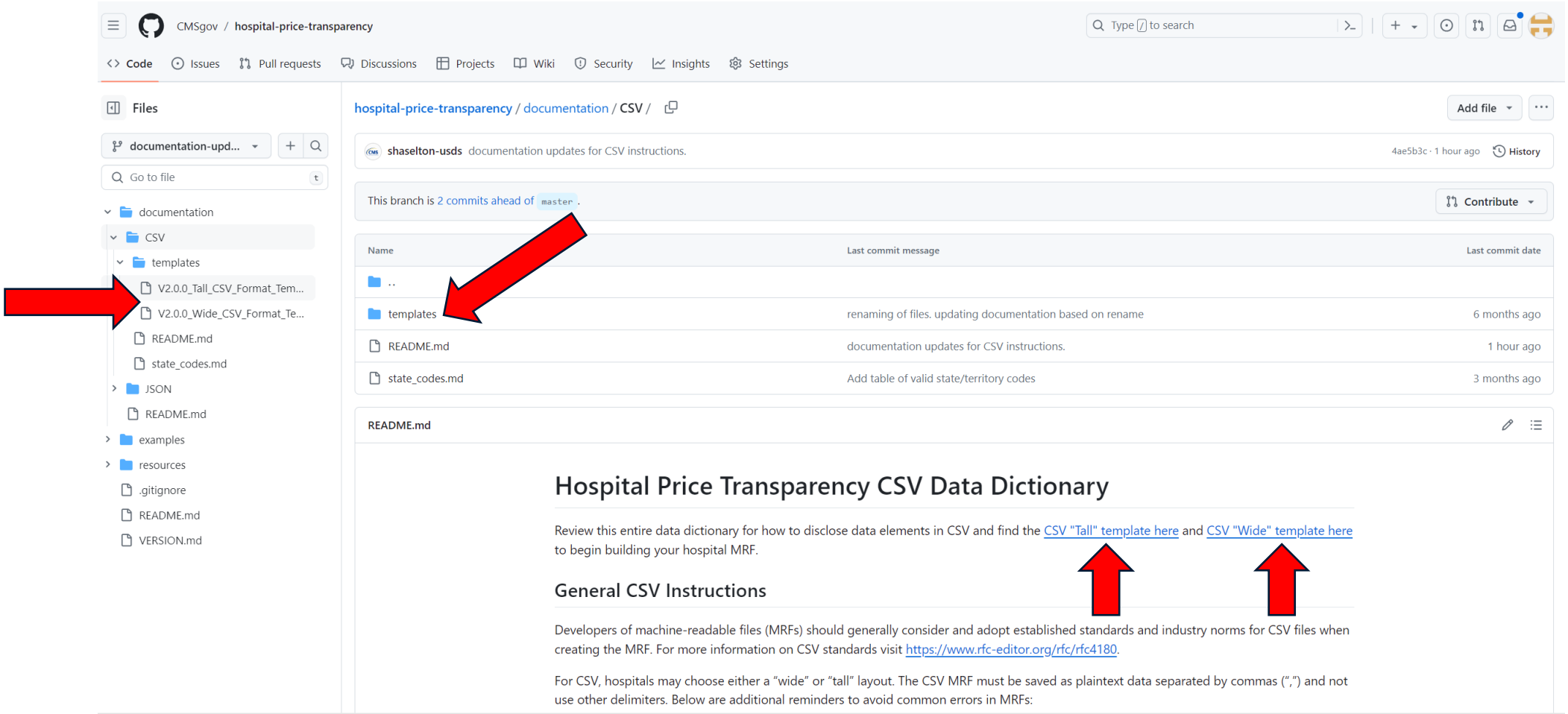
How to Access and Download Templates

Step 2: Select either the CSV or JSON



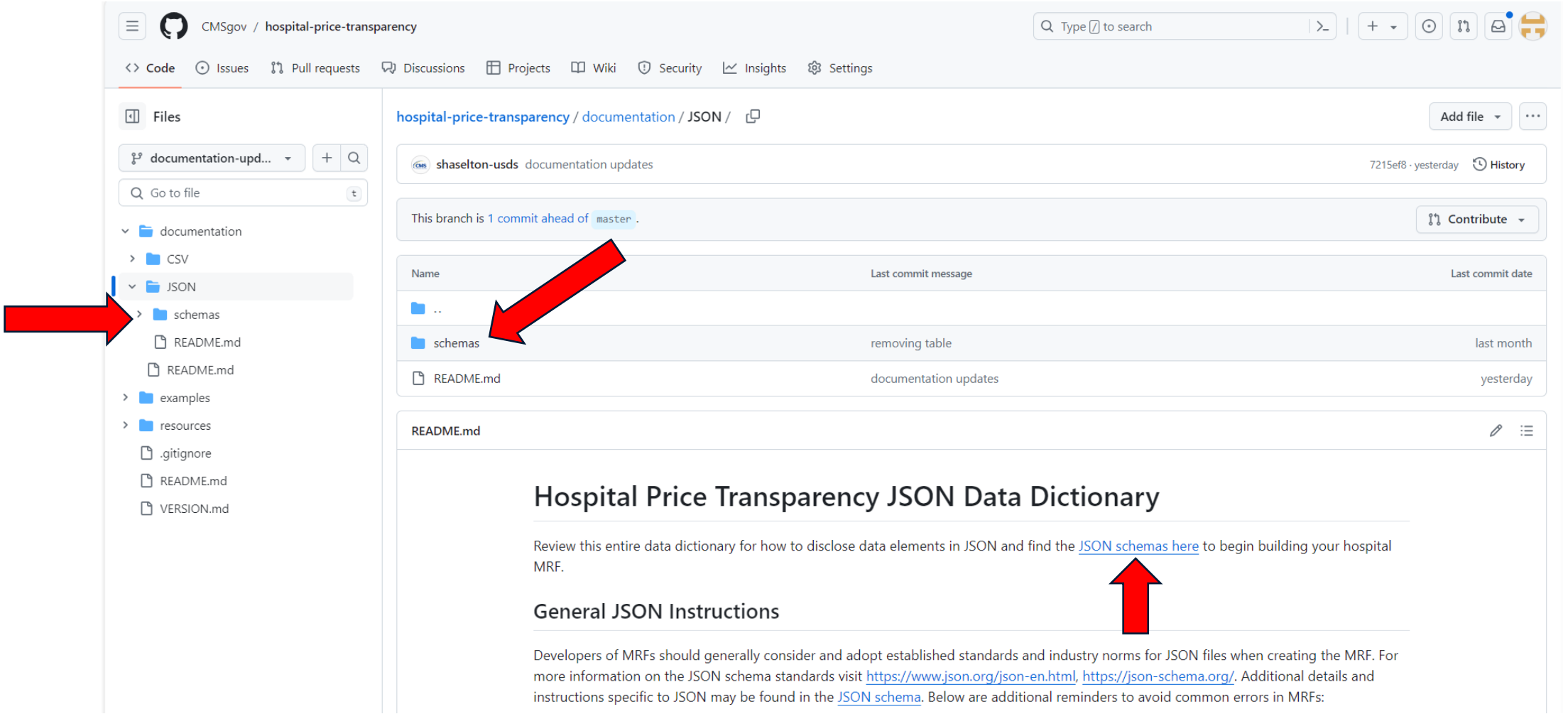
How to Access and Download Templates

Step 3a: Select the template link from multiple locations on the CSV data dictionary



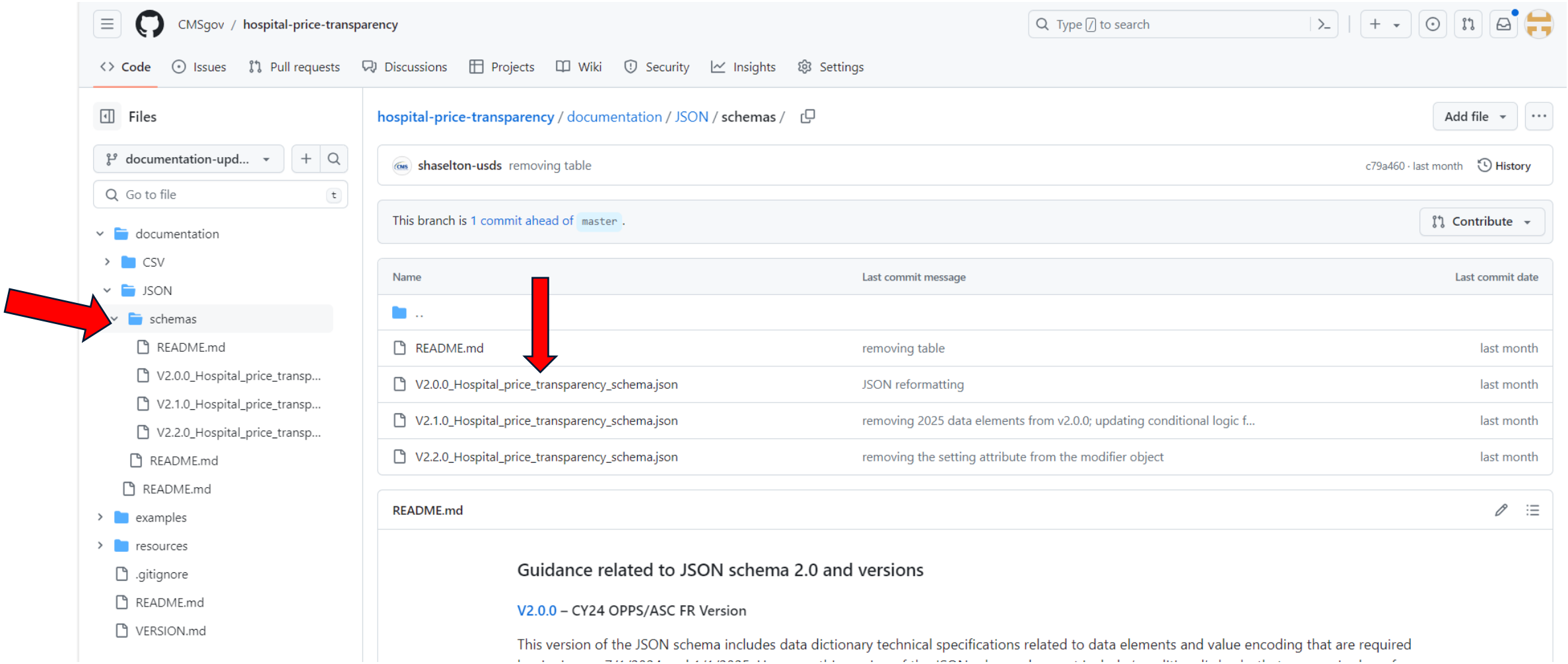
How to Access and Download Templates

Step 3b: Select the schema link from multiple locations on the JSON data dictionary



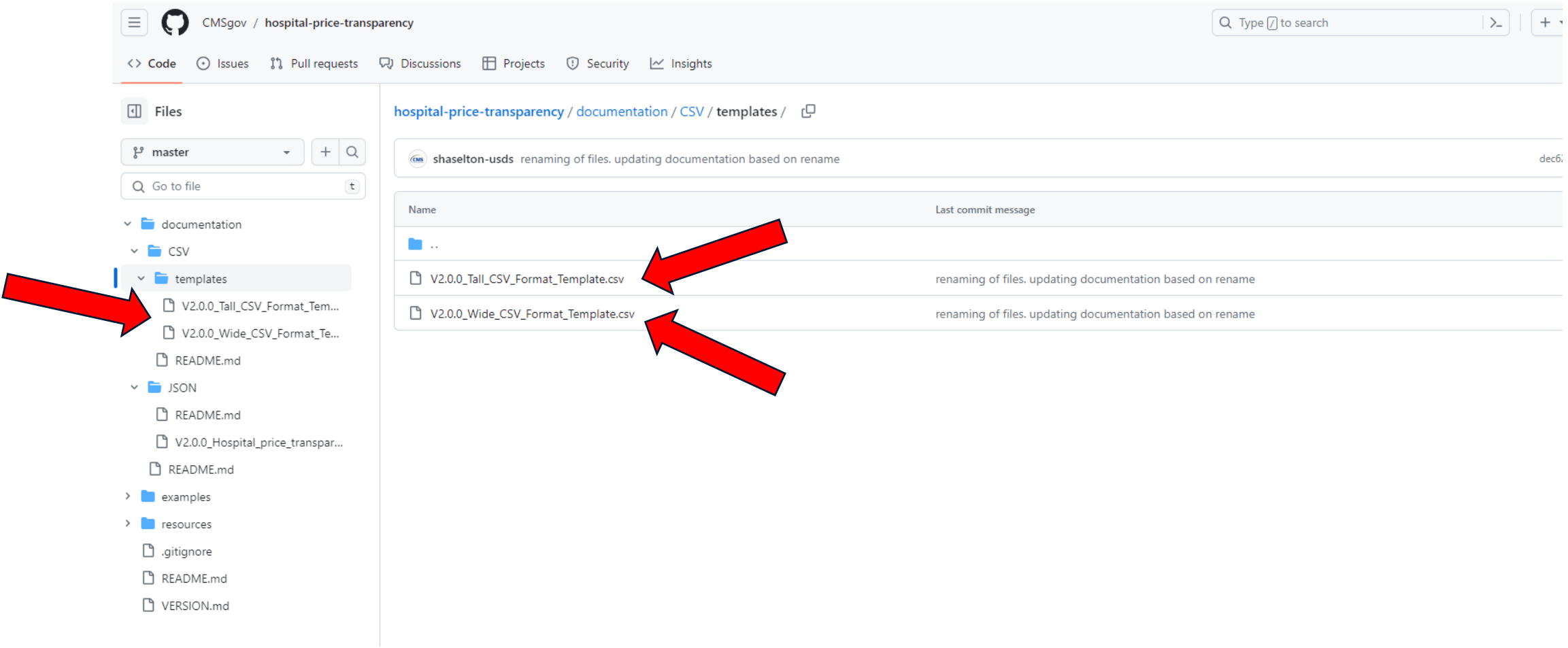
How to Access and Download Templates

Step 3: In JSON, select the version of the schema (template) to view



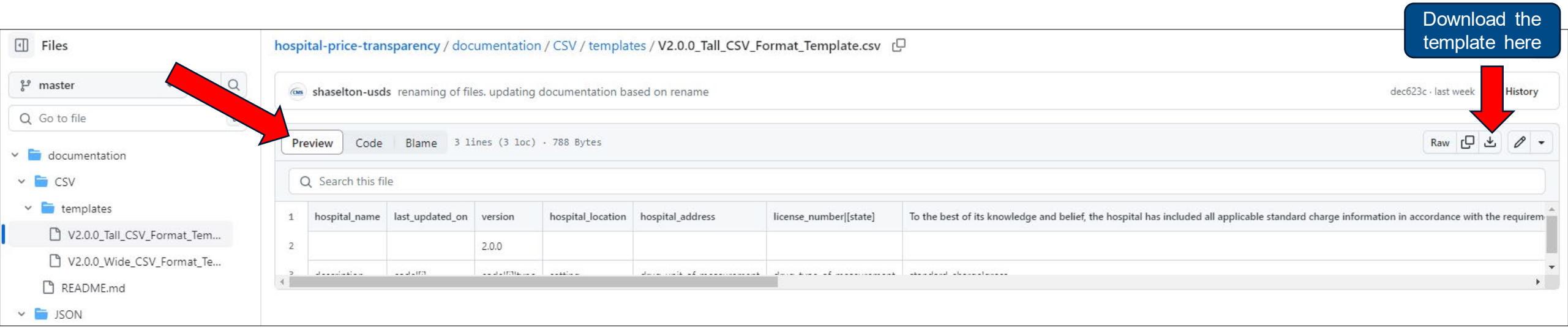
How to Access and Download Templates

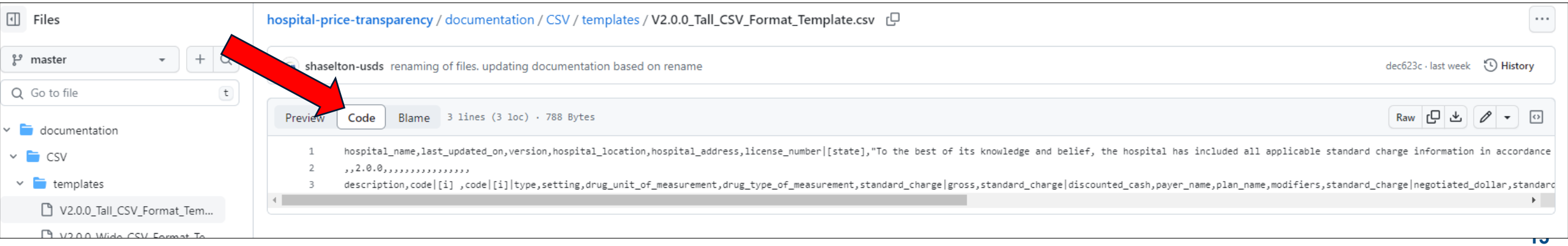
Step 3: In CSV, select either the “Tall” or “Wide” format



How to Access Templates and Implementation Documentation

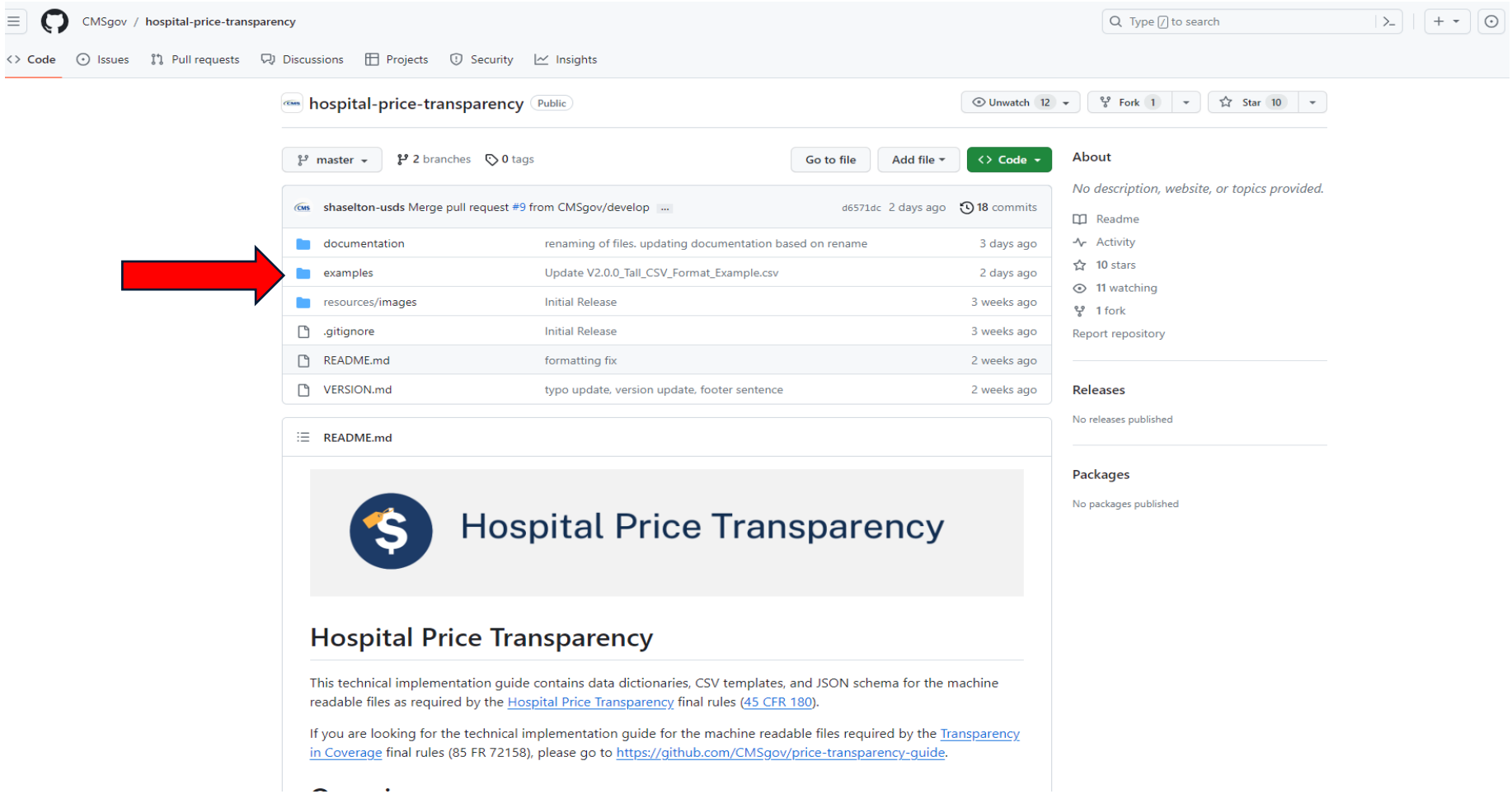
Step 4: Once you have selected the desired format, you can view the template on GitHub in "Preview" view, "Code" view, or download the template in a separate file.





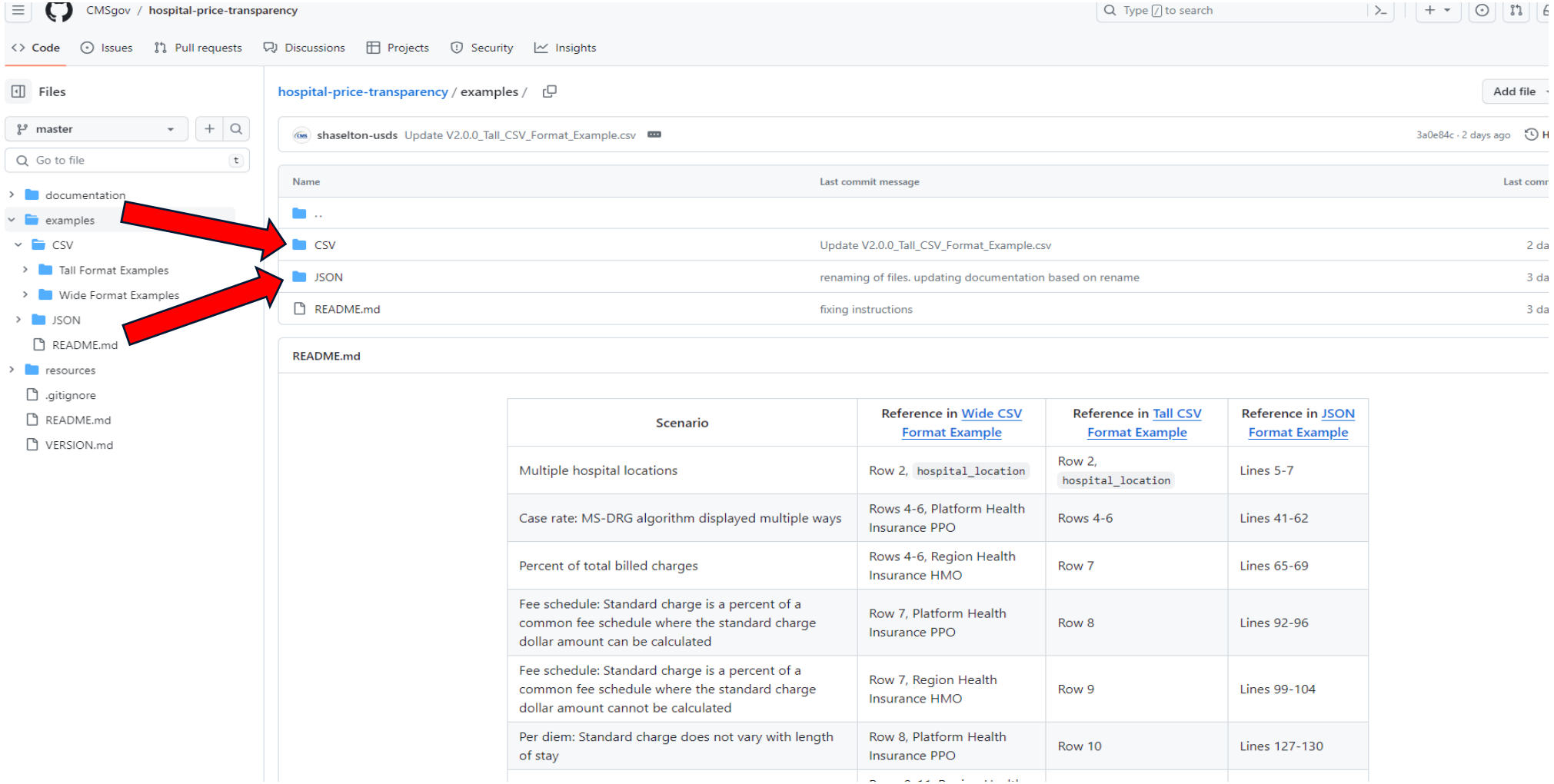
Access and Download Examples

Step 1: Select “examples” from homepage



Access and Download Examples

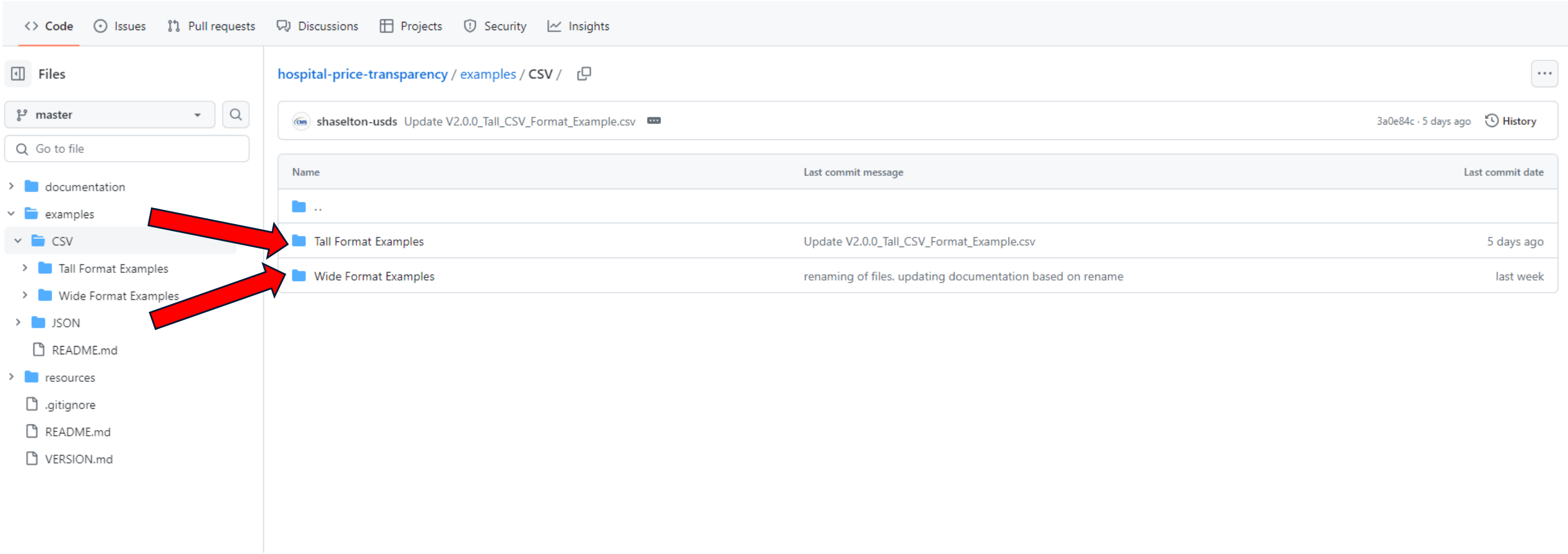
Step 2: Select CSV or JSON



Scenario	Reference in Wide CSV Format Example	Reference in Tall CSV Format Example	Reference in JSON Format Example
Multiple hospital locations	Row 2, `hospital_location`	Row 2, `hospital_location`	Lines 5-7
Case rate: MS-DRG algorithm displayed multiple ways	Rows 4-6, Platform Health Insurance PPO	Rows 4-6	Lines 41-62
Percent of total billed charges	Rows 4-6, Region Health Insurance HMO	Row 7	Lines 65-69
Fee schedule: Standard charge is a percent of a common fee schedule where the standard charge dollar amount can be calculated	Row 7, Platform Health Insurance PPO	Row 8	Lines 92-96
Fee schedule: Standard charge is a percent of a common fee schedule where the standard charge dollar amount cannot be calculated	Row 7, Region Health Insurance HMO	Row 9	Lines 99-104
Per diem: Standard charge does not vary with length of stay	Row 8, Platform Health Insurance PPO	Row 10	Lines 127-130

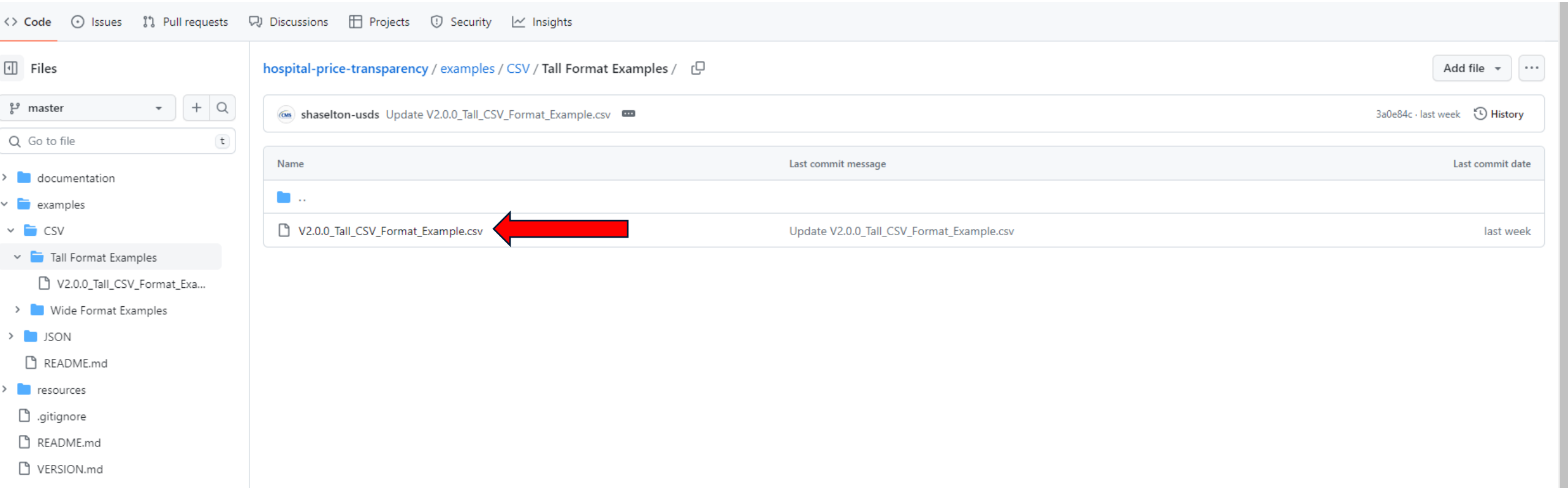
Access and Download Examples

Step 3: For CSV, select “Tall” or “Wide”



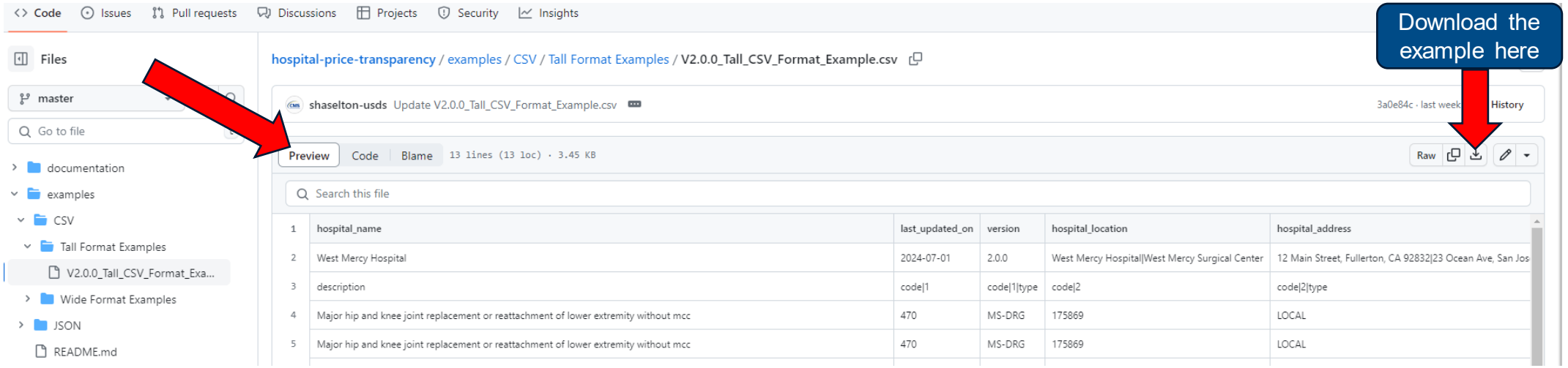
Access and Download Examples

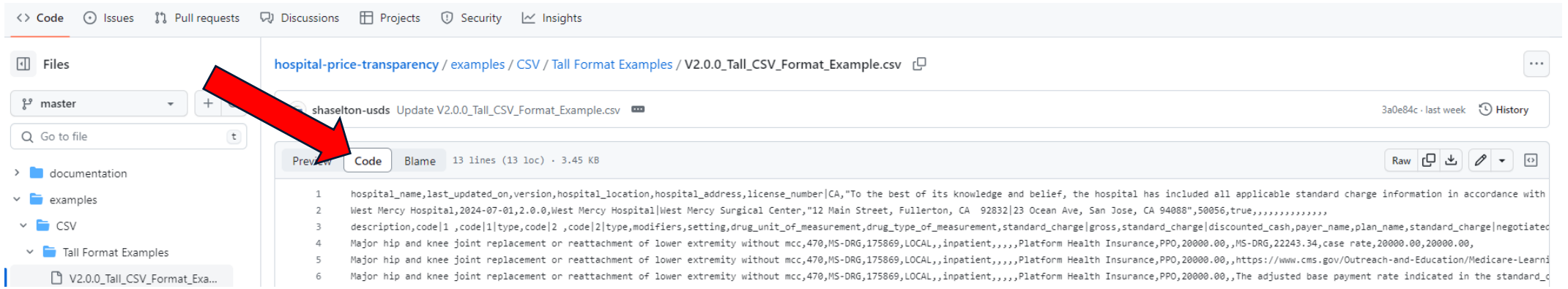
Step 4: Once you have selected the desired format, select the example file



Access and Download Examples

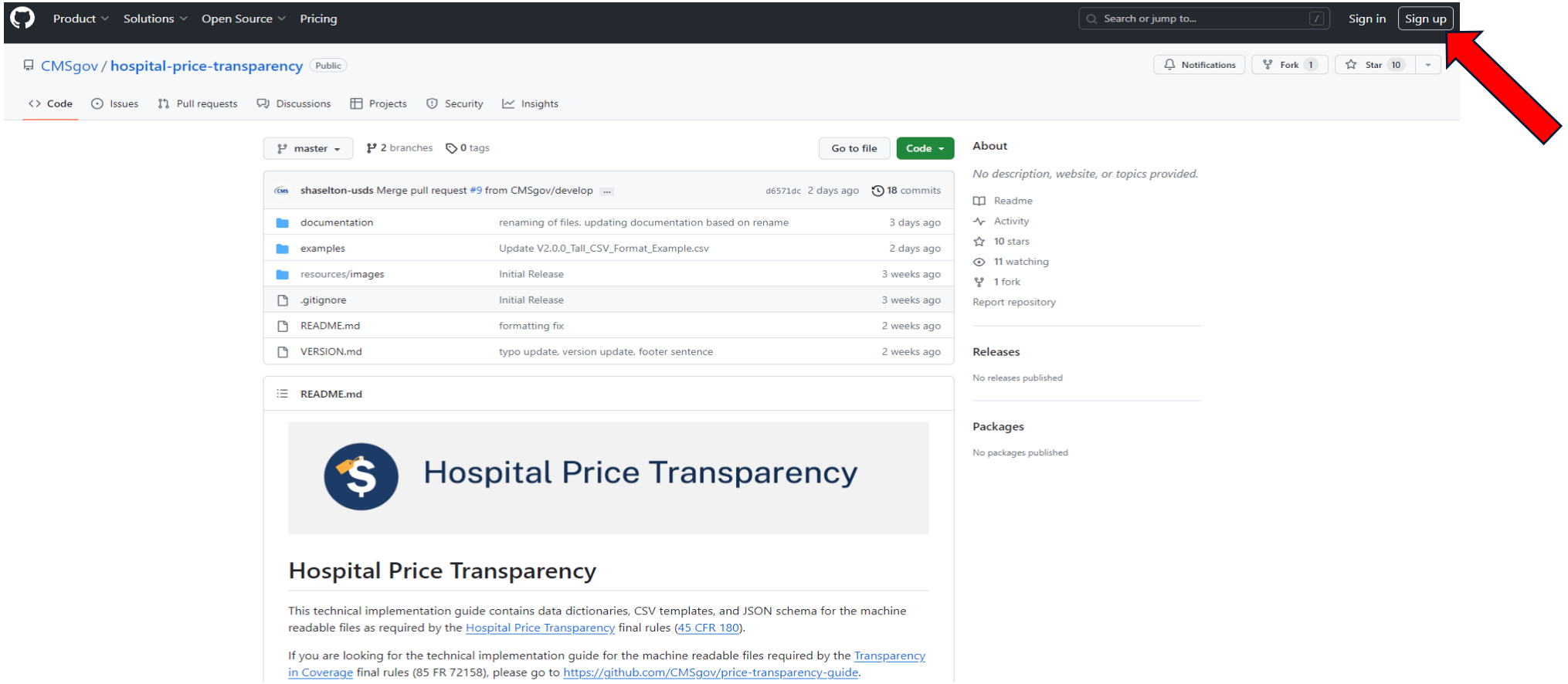
Step 5: Once you have selected the desired format, you can view the example on GitHub in "Preview" view, "Code" view, or download the example in a separate file.





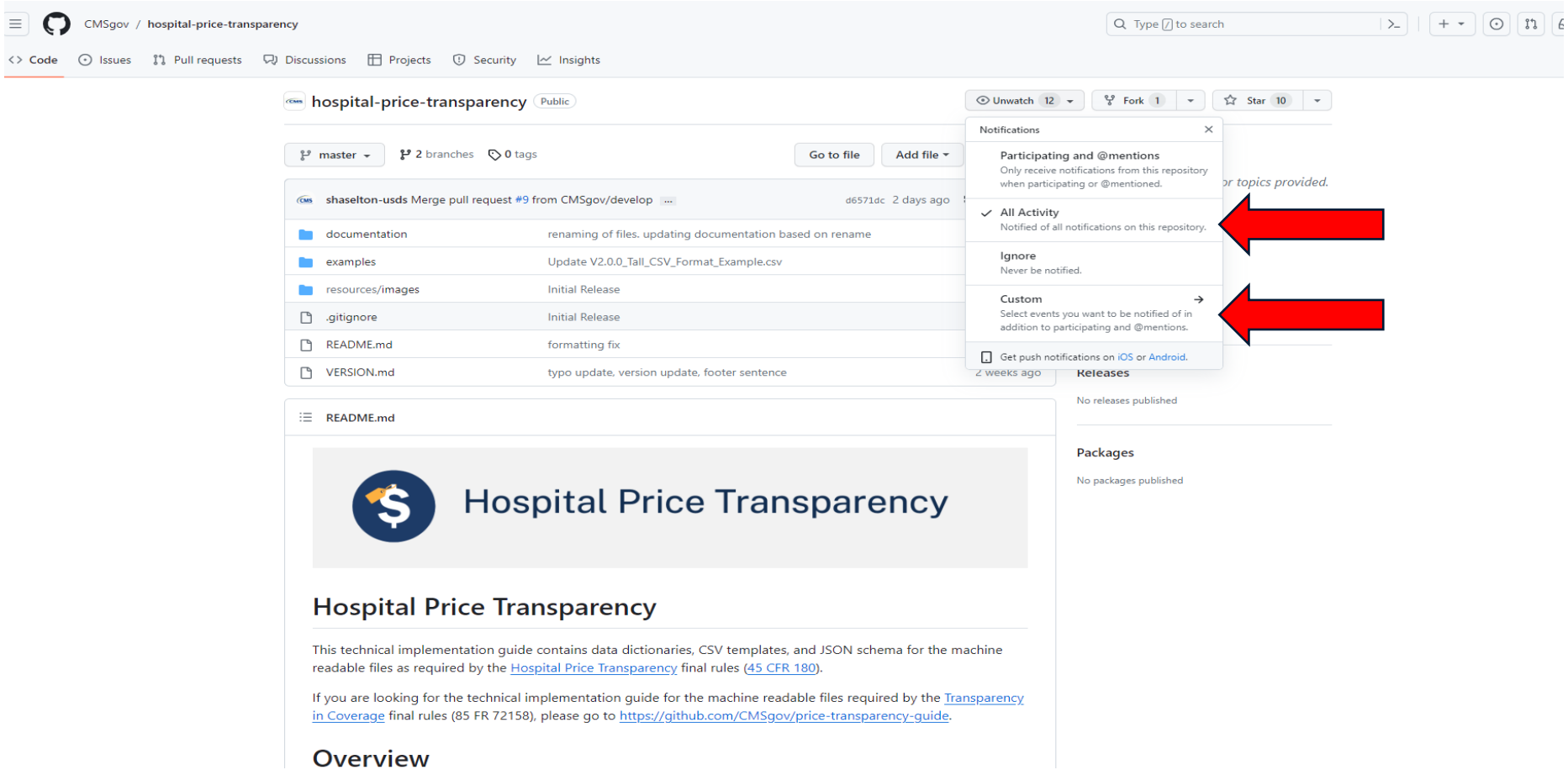
How to Sign Up and Stay Up to Date

Step 1: Click on the “Sign-up” button, enter your information, and create a username.



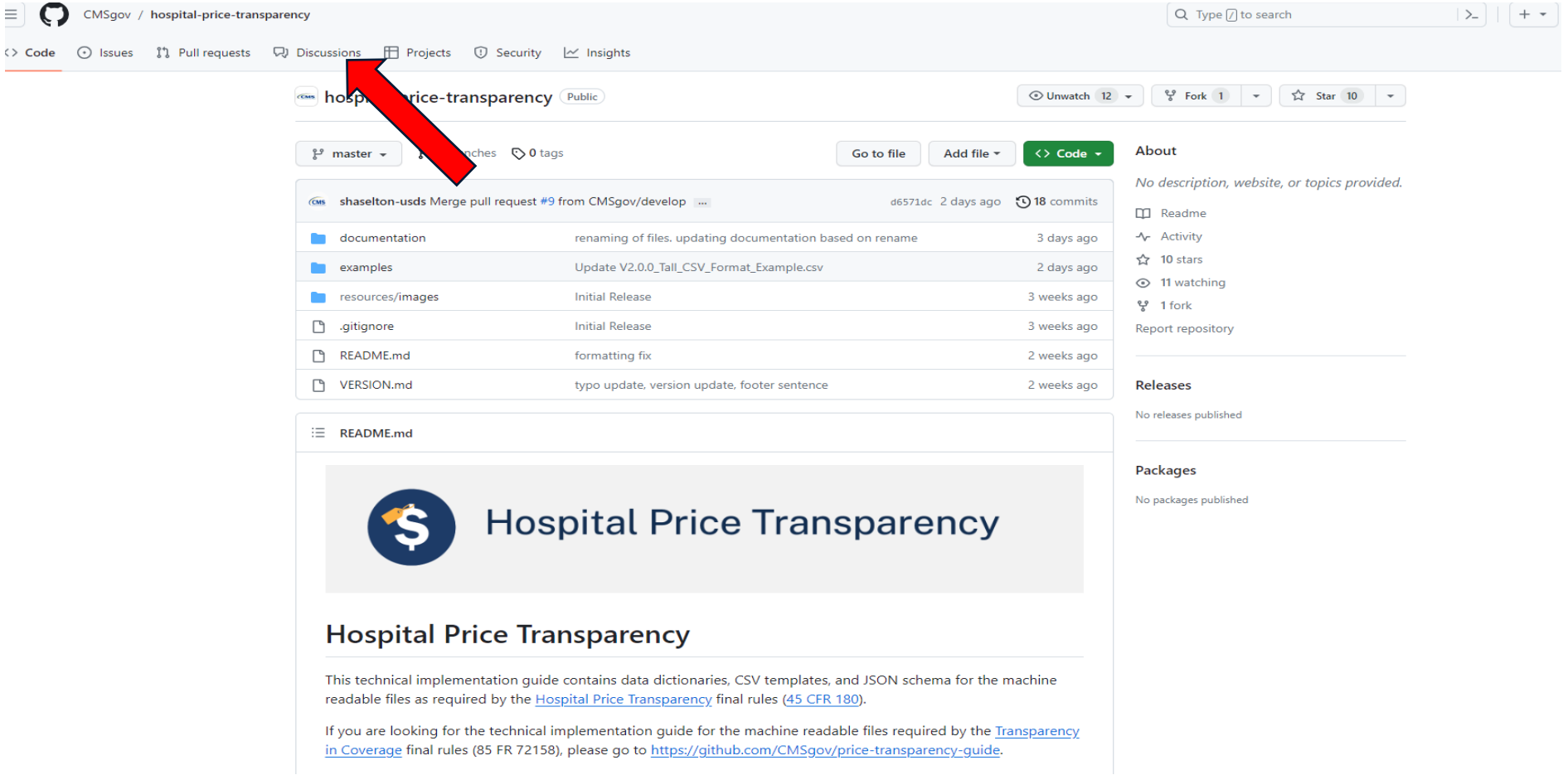
How to Stay Up-to-Date

Step 2: After signing in, click on the “Watch” button in upper-right hand corner and select “All Activity.” You can change this preference at any time or select “Custom” to chose which type of events send you notifications.



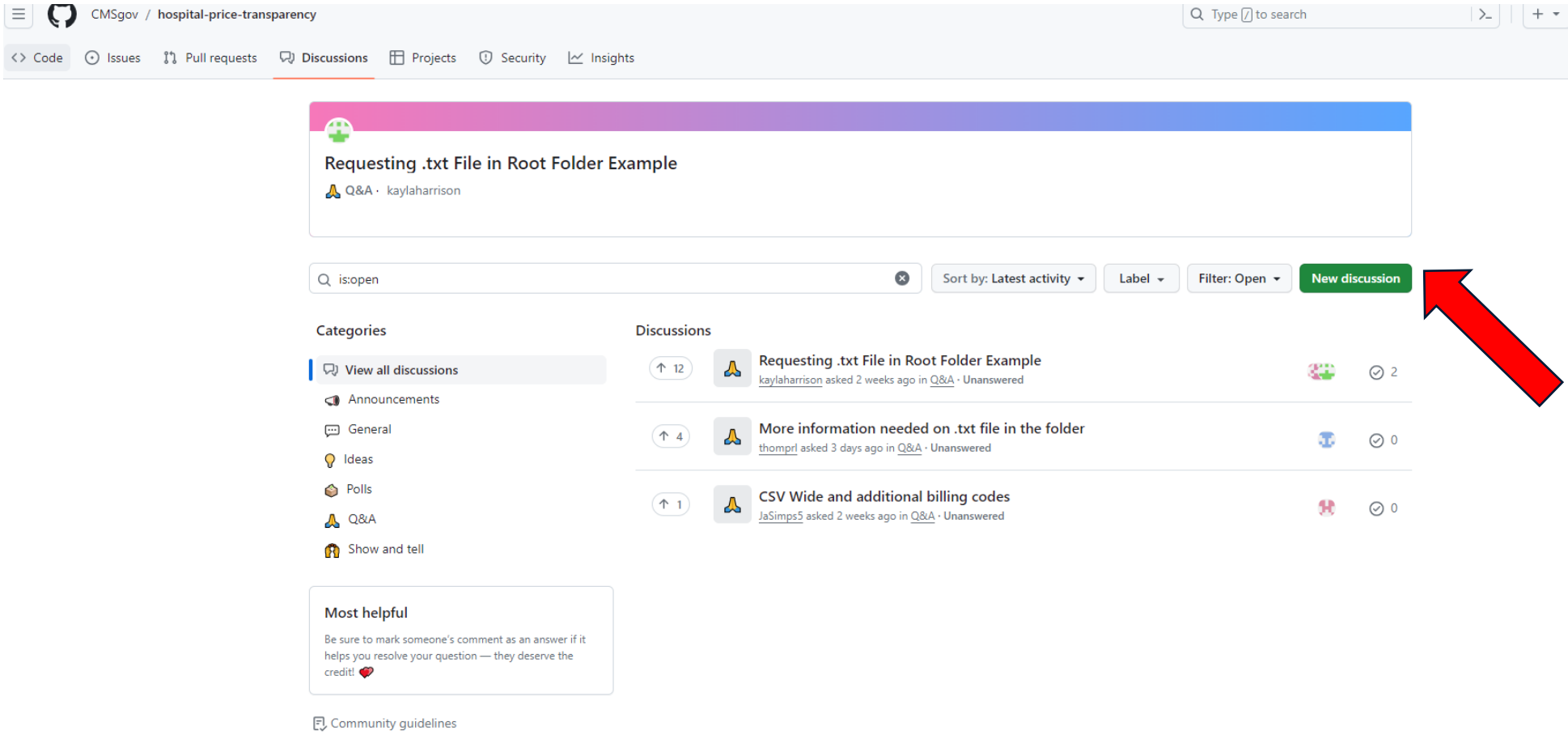
How to Access and Start a Discussion

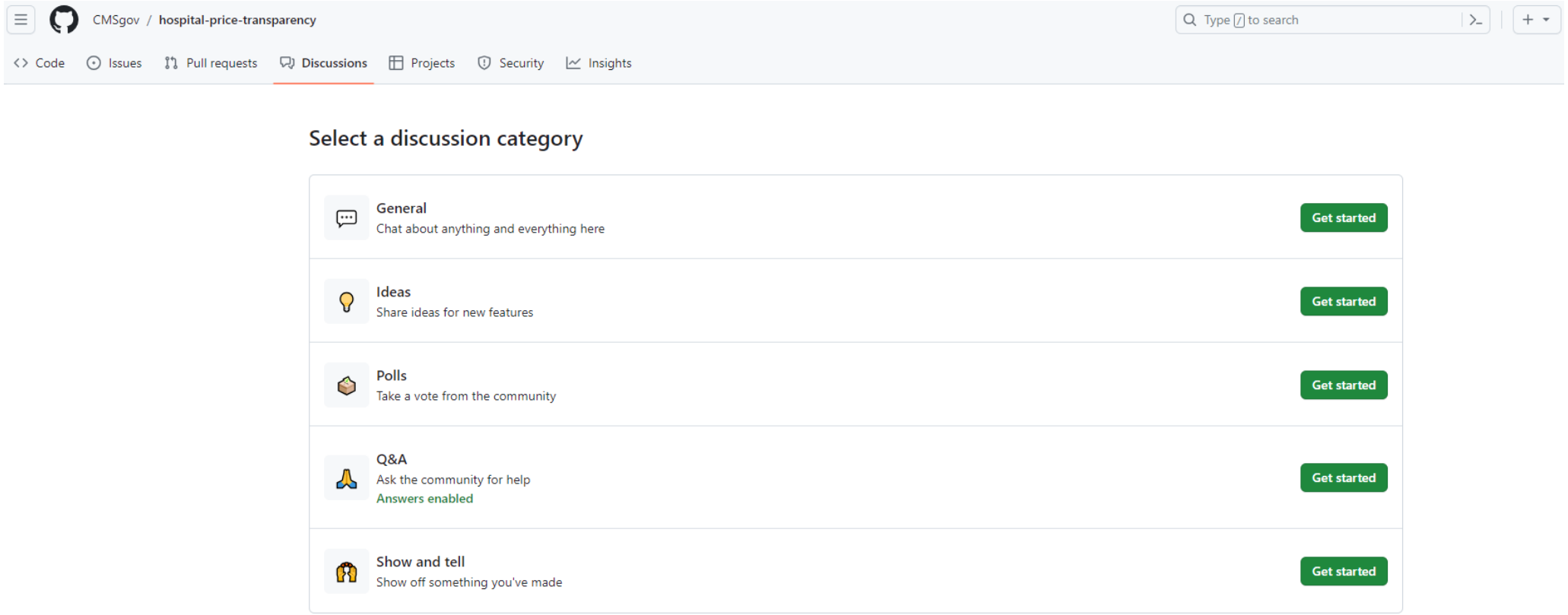
Step 1: From any page in the GitHub, select “Discussions” at the top to view discussions



How to Access and Start a Discussion

Step 2: Review existing discussion chains to see if your question has been answered. If not , select “New discussion” to start a new chain.



How to Access and Start a Discussion

Step 3: Select a discussion category and enter in the discussion information