

# Database Essentials for Healthcare Finance Professionals

**Brad Adams, CPA**

Project Manager, Diagnostic Laboratories  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

# Learning Objectives

- Understand the different data types that can assigned.
- Understand the basics of database tables and relationships.
- Understand how to retrieve data from a database system.

# Defining Data

- Specific for each field or column in a table.
- Set the type and size of data.
- Helps to provide data integrity and consistency.

# *Data Types*

Text

Numbers

Date & Time

Boolean

Binary

# Text

## When to Use Text

- Any combination of letters, numbers, or symbols
- Numbers that won't be used in calculations
- Social Security Numbers
  - 123456789
- Medical Record Numbers
  - 0123456789
- HCPCS/CPT Codes
  - 00520
  - J9041

# Numbers

- Integer
  - Natural/Whole numbers
  - Can be positive or negative
  - Example - Quantity
- Decimal
  - Defined precision - total digits
  - Defined scale - digits to right of decimal
  - Example - Money

# Date & Time

- Date (YYYY-MM-DD)
- Time (hh:mm:ss.nnn AM/PM)
- Datetime (YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss.nnn AM/PM)
  - Admission/Discharge

# Boolean

- 1 or 0
- Yes or No
- True or False
- Active or Inactive  
CDM Number
- Billable or Non-  
billable Supply



# Binary

- Used to store large amounts of data including:
  - Very Long Text Strings - when you copy & paste a resume or cover letter into a job application website.
  - Media - pictures, audio, video, etc.
  - Files - PDFs, Excel, etc.

1500

## HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIM FORM

APPROVED BY NATIONAL UNIFORM CLAIM COMMITTEE 08/05

PICA

PICA

1. MEDICARE (Medicare #)		MEDICAID (Medicaid #)		TRICARE CHAMPUS (Sponsor's SSN)		CHAMPVA (Member ID#)		GROUP HEALTH PLAN (SSN or ID)		FECA BLK LUNG (SSN)		OTHER (ID)		1a. INSURED'S I.D. NUMBER (For Program in Item 1)	
2. PATIENT'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)								3. PATIENT'S BIRTH DATE MM   DD   YY M F				4. INSURED'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)			
5. PATIENT'S ADDRESS (No., Street)								6. PATIENT RELATIONSHIP TO INSURED Self Spouse Child Other				7. INSURED'S ADDRESS (No., Street)			
CITY						STATE		8. PATIENT STATUS Single Married Other Employed Full-Time Student Part-Time Student				CITY		STATE	
ZIP CODE				TELEPHONE (Include Area Code) ( )								ZIP CODE		TELEPHONE (Include Area Code) ( )	
9. OTHER INSURED'S NAME (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)								10. IS PATIENT'S CONDITION RELATED TO: a. EMPLOYMENT? (Current or Previous) YES NO b. AUTO ACCIDENT? PLACE (State) YES NO c. OTHER ACCIDENT? YES NO				11. INSURED'S POLICY GROUP OR FECA NUMBER a. INSURED'S DATE OF BIRTH MM   DD   YY M F b. EMPLOYER'S NAME OR SCHOOL NAME c. INSURANCE PLAN NAME OR PROGRAM NAME d. IS THERE ANOTHER HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN? YES NO If yes, return to and complete item 9 a-d.			
a. OTHER INSURED'S POLICY OR GROUP NUMBER															
b. OTHER INSURED'S DATE OF BIRTH MM   DD   YY M F															
c. EMPLOYER'S NAME OR SCHOOL NAME															
d. INSURANCE PLAN NAME OR PROGRAM NAME								10d. RESERVED FOR LOCAL USE							

A. Text	B. Integer	C. Decimal	D. Datetime	E. Date
F. Time	G. Boolean	H. Binary		

# Databases

## Online Transaction Processing (OLTP)

- Operations
- Production
- Realtime Processing
- Normalized

## Online Analytical Processing (OLAP)

- Reporting
- Data Warehouse
- Batch Processing
- Pre-summarized
- Big Data

# Database Design

- Normalization
- Tables
- Data Relationships
  - One to One
  - One to Many
  - Many to Many

# Normalization

*Separating data into the smallest useful parts.*

Bradley (Brad) C. Adams, CPA  
Project Manager, Diagnostic Laboratories  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center  
1301 Medical Center Drive  
The Vanderbilt Clinic Suite 4605  
Nashville, TN 37232  
(615) 875-9554  
brad.adams@vanderbilt.edu

# Normalization

Bradley (Brad) C.Adams, CPA

Field Name	Value	Data Type
First Name	Bradley	Text
Last Name	Adams	Text
Middle Name	C.	Text
Preferred Name	Brad	Text
Suffix	CPA	Text

# Normalization

1301 Medical Center Drive  
The Vanderbilt Clinic Suite 4605  
Nashville, TN 37232

Field Name	Value	Data Type
Address 1	1301 Medical Center Drive	Text
Address 2	The Vanderbilt Clinic Suite 4605	Text
City	Nashville	Text
State	TN	Text
Postal Code	37232	Text

# Tables

Field Name	Data Type
First Name	Text
Last Name	Text
Middle Name	Text
Preferred Name	Text
Suffix	Text
Title	Text
Department	Text
Company	Text

Field Name	Data Type
Address 1	Text
Address 2	Text
City	Text
State	Text
Postal Code	Text
Phone	Text
E-mail	Text



# Primary Keys

- Uniquely identify a record
- Can not be repeated or duplicated
- Commonly a sequential integer unique only to that database
- Can be a combination of fields

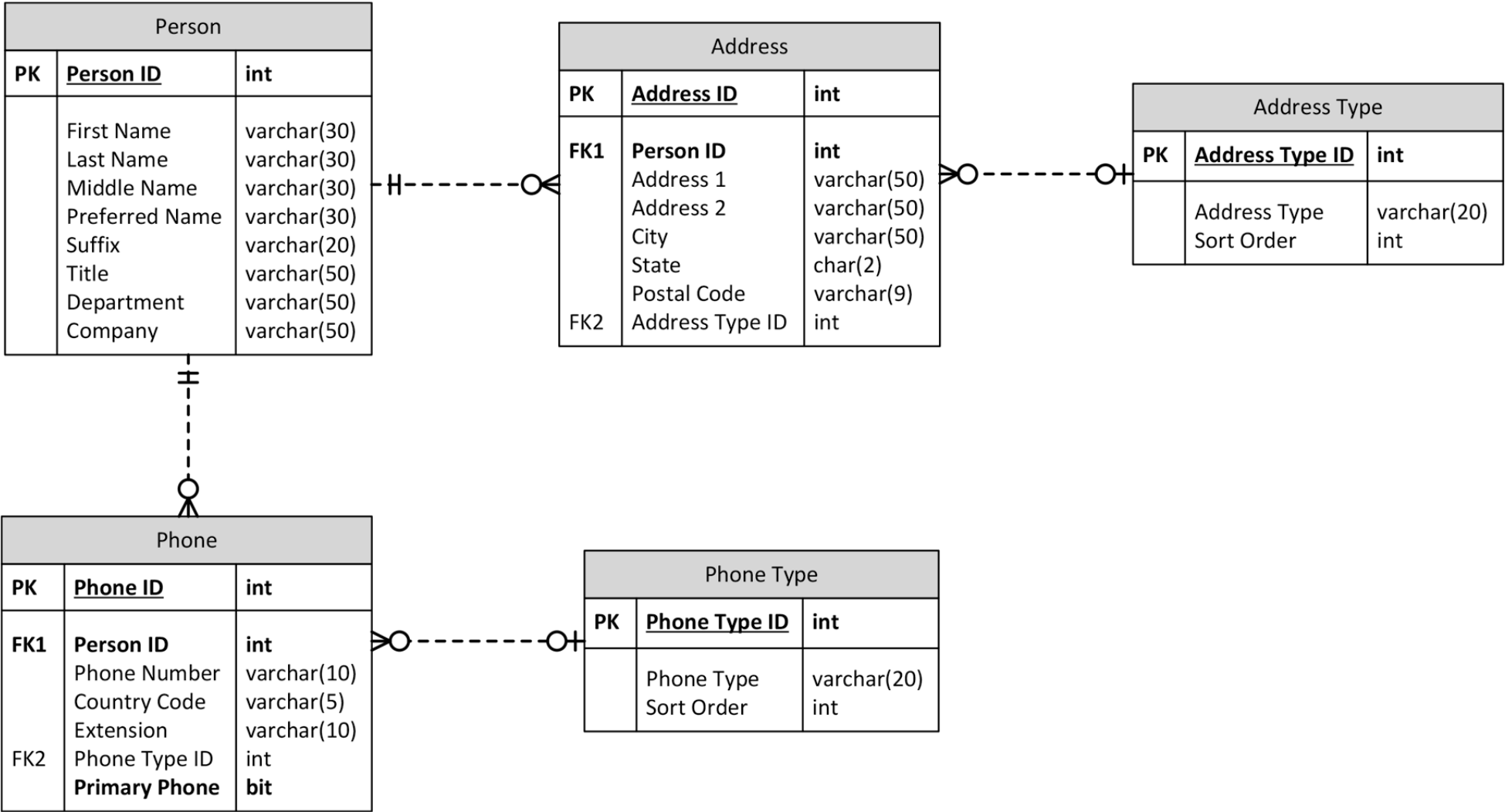
Field Name	Data Type
Unique Identifier (PK)	???
First Name	Text
Last Name	Text
Middle Name	Text
Preferred Name	Text
Suffix	Text
Title	Text
Department	Text
Company	Text

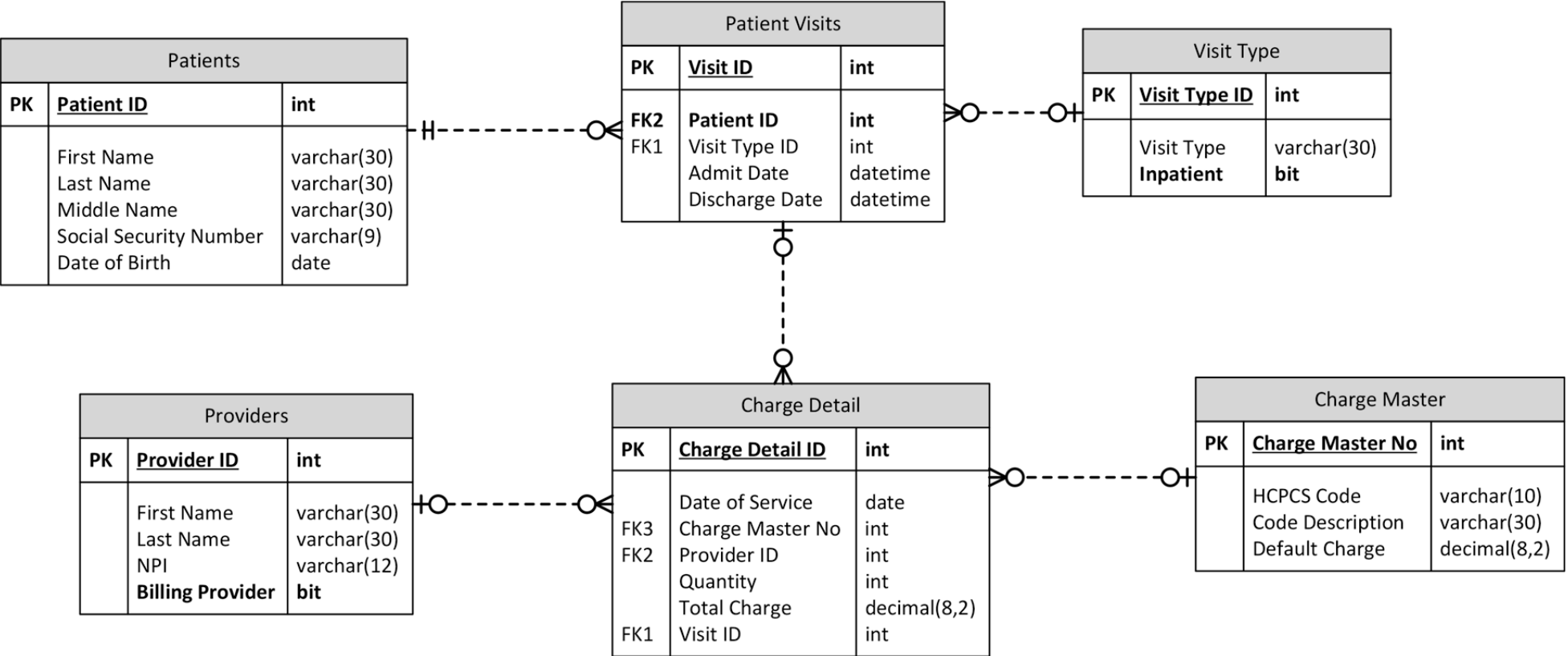
# Good or Bad

- Phone Number
- Employee ID (auto generated)
- Social Security Number
- HCPCS Code
- Patient ID *and* Date of Service
- Clinic ID

# Data Relationships

- One to Many or Zero to Many
  - Primary Care Provider - A patient can have one and only one PCP; a PCP can have many patients
- One to One and Zero to One
  - Spouses - you can have none or one and only one spouse and that spouse can have only one spouse
- Many to Many
  - Patients - A patient can have many providers and a provider can have many patients





# Database Actions

- Insert a Record - creating or adding a new row
- Delete a Record - removing a row
- Update a Record - changing the value of one or more fields in a record
  - The database will actually delete the existing record and insert a new one with the same primary key value
- Select a Record - retrieve a record or records from the database

# Structured Query Language (SQL)

- Pronounced *Sequel* or *See-Quill*
- (Mostly) common syntax used to perform database actions.
- Often created in the background by a drag-and-drop Graphical User Interface (GUI)

# Select

**SELECT** <Field Names separated by a comma>

**FROM** <Table Name>

**SELECT** First Name, Last Name, Title, Department, Company

**FROM** Persons



# Criteria (Where)

**SELECT** <Field Names separated by a comma>

**FROM** <Table Name>

**WHERE** <Field Name> = <value>

**SELECT** First Name, Last Name, Title, Department, Company

**FROM** Persons

**WHERE** Last Name = Adams

# Criteria (Where)

Exact Match	= (Equals)
Partial Match	Like
Range	Between
Inequality	> >= <= <
List of Values	In

## Wild Cards

Multiple Characters

- %
- \*

Single Character

- \_ (underscore)
- ? (question mark)

# Criteria (Where)

```
SELECT First Name, Last Name, Title, Department, Company  
FROM Persons  
WHERE Last Name Like %Adam%
```

# Criteria (Where)

**SELECT** Charge Master Number, Quantity, Total Charge

**FROM** Charge Detail

**WHERE** Date of Service **BETWEEN** 4/1/2013 **AND** 4/30/2013

# Aggregation

**SELECT** Field Names, **Aggregate Function**(Field Name)

**FROM** Table Name

**GROUP BY** (Field Names that aren't part of the aggregate)

**SELECT** Charge Master Number, SUM(Quantity), SUM(Total Charge)

**FROM** Charge Detail

**GROUP BY** Charge Master Number

# Select (from multiple tables)

**SELECT** <Field Names separated by a comma>

**FROM** <Table Name 1> **INNER JOIN** <Table Name 2>

**ON** <Field from Table 1> = <Field from Table 2>

**SELECT** HCPCS Code, Quantity

**FROM** Charge Detail **INNER JOIN** Charge Master

**ON** Charge Master No = Charge Master No

# Indexes

- Created on fields where are frequently used as conditions in select statements.
- Helps to improve speed of data returned and reduce system load.
- Can include additional information which is often requested with a specific criteria.
- Automatically created on primary keys in most database systems.