

## NUMERIC DATA TYPE

A DATA TYPE defined as NUMERIC requires you to enter the lowest and highest values allowed, the maximum number of decimal digits allowed, and to state whether dollar values are allowed (e.g., \$33).

For example, when defining a NUMERIC DATA TYPE, you are asked the following questions:

```
Select FIELD: AGE AT ONSET
  Are you adding 'AGE AT ONSET' as a new FIELD? No// Y <RET> (YES)

DATA TYPE OF AGE AT ONSET: NUMERIC
INCLUSIVE LOWER BOUND: 0
INCLUSIVE UPPER BOUND: 100
IS THIS A DOLLAR AMOUNT (Y/N): NO// <RET>
```

**Figure 112: Defining a NUMERIC DATA TYPE Field in Scrolling Mode (1)**

If you answer YES at the "IS THIS A DOLLAR AMOUNT (Y/N):" prompt, VA FileMan would allow users to precede input data with a dollar sign ("\$\$") and show up to two decimal places.

```
MAXIMUM NUMBER OF FRACTIONAL DIGITS: 0// <RET>
WILL AGE AT ONSET FIELD BE MULTIPLE? No// <RET> (No)
IS AGE AT ONSET ENTRY MANDATORY (Y/N): NO// <RET> NO
....
'HELP'-PROMPT: Type a Number between 0 and 100, 0 Decimal Digits
                Replace <RET>
DESCRIPTION:
  1> <RET>
```

**Figure 113: Defining a NUMERIC DATA TYPE Field in Scrolling Mode (2)**

A default Help prompt is automatically written for you with the NUMERIC DATA TYPE. You can change this prompt using the "Replace ... With" syntax.



This Help information is displayed when the user inputs a single question mark ("?") when editing this field.



You can review and change a file's field attributes easily by running the Modify File Attributes option in Screen Mode. For an example of entering a NUMERIC DATA TYPE in Screen Mode, please refer to the "Examples of File and Field Creation" topic that follows.

## SET OF CODES DATA TYPE

A DATA TYPE defined as a SET OF CODES can be used to restrict a user to just a few possible values (e.g., YES or NO). When defining a SET OF CODES DATA TYPE, enter a valid code and a translation of what each code means. The user can enter the code, the full meaning, or a portion of the full meaning. If the field is set up to require only a one-character response (as shown in the example below), this DATA TYPE can simplify the user's data entry.

VA FileMan has only a limited amount of space to store the codes and their external values. If the limit is exceeded, you are told "TOO MUCH!--SHOULD BE A 'POINTER', NOT 'SET'." The SET OF CODES DATA TYPE is sometimes referred to as a SET.

For example, when defining a SET OF CODES DATA TYPE, you are asked the following questions:

```
Select FIELD: SEX
  Are you adding 'SEX' as a new FIELD? No// Y <RET>  (Yes)

DATA TYPE OF SEX: SET OF CODES
INTERNALLY-STORED CODE: m  WILL STAND FOR: MALE
INTERNALLY-STORED CODE: f  WILL STAND FOR: FEMALE
INTERNALLY-STORED CODE: <RET>
WILL SEX FIELD BE MULTIPLE: No// <RET>  (No)
IS SEX ENTRY MANDATORY (Y/N): No// Y <RET>  YES
...
'HELP' -PROMPT: <RET>
DESCRIPTION:
  1> <RET>
```

**Figure 114: Defining a SET OF CODES DATA TYPE Field in Scrolling Mode**

In this example, "**m**" stands for Male and "**f**" stands for Female. Numbers as well as alphabetic characters can be used.



You can review and change a file's field attributes easily by running the Modify File Attributes option in Screen Mode. For an example of entering a SET OF CODES DATA TYPE in Screen Mode, please refer to the "Examples of File and Field Creation" topic that follows.

## FREE TEXT DATA TYPE

A DATA TYPE defined as FREE TEXT allows you to enter the maximum and minimum allowable string length of the FREE TEXT data. You can also enter an M PATTERN MATCH that input data will have to match.

For example, when defining a FREE TEXT DATA TYPE, you are asked the following questions:

```
Select FIELD: DIAGNOSIS
  Are you adding 'DIAGNOSIS' as a new FIELD? No// Y <RET> (Yes)

DATA TYPE OF DIAGNOSIS: FREE TEXT
MINIMUM LENGTH: 3
MAXIMUM LENGTH: 30
(OPTIONAL) PATTERN MATCH (IN 'X'): <RET>
```

**Figure 115: Defining a FREE TEXT DATA TYPE Field in Scrolling Mode (1)**

The PATTERN MATCH is written in M code. If input data violates the PATTERN MATCH or the Minimum/Maximum lengths, the data is not accepted and the user is shown the Help prompt information.

```
WILL DIAGNOSIS FIELD BE MULTIPLE? No// Y <RET> (Yes)
IS DIAGNOSIS ENTRY MANDATORY(Y/N): NO// <RET> NO
SHOULD USER SEE AN "ADDING A NEW DIAGNOSIS?" MESSAGE FOR NEW
ENTRIES (Y/N): N <RET> NO
HAVING ENTERED OR EDITED ONE DIAGNOSIS, SHOULD USER BE ASKED
ANOTHER (Y/N): Y <RET> YES
```

**Figure 116: Defining a FREE TEXT DATA TYPE Field in Scrolling Mode (2)**

With these specifications, the user is not given a confirming message when new subentries are added to the Multiple. The user is allowed to enter several diagnoses in a row for a given patient.

```
....
....
'HELP'-PROMPT: Answer must be 3-30 characters in length.
                Replace <RET>
DESCRIPTION:
1> <RET>
```

**Figure 117: Defining a FREE TEXT DATA TYPE Field in Scrolling Mode (3)**

A default Help prompt is automatically written for you with the FREE TEXT DATA TYPE. You can change this prompt using the "Replace ... With" syntax.



This Help information is displayed when the user inputs a single question mark ("?",) when editing this field.



You can review and change a file's field attributes easily by running the Modify File Attributes option in Screen Mode. For an example of entering a FREE TEXT DATA TYPE in Screen Mode, please refer to the "Examples of File and Field Creation" topic that follows.