



# **MDGuidelines® API: Topic v2 Specification 1.4**

**Date: December 6, 2023**

# 1 Overview

## 1.1 Purpose and Intended Audience

The purpose of this document is to provide detailed descriptions and specifications for the MDGuidelines® Topic v2 API.

The Topic API is intended to be used by MDGuidelines clients and partners that have integrated MDGuidelines into their own products and wish to display text from MDGuidelines Health Advisor Topics within their application.

The version number of this document refers to the Specification version. See Section 2.3 Version Information below for information related to the API version.

## 1.2 Description

The Topic v2 API provides access to the content of an individual MDGuidelines Health Advisor Topic. The service optionally provides a list of available Sections for the specified Health Advisor Topic document. This information can be used to confirm which Sections are available for a given topic, since not all Health Advisor topics include every Section.

### Terminology

Term	Definition
Topic	A document covering a condition (diagnosis or procedure) from the MDGuidelines Health Advisor content set.
Section, Subsection, Parent Section	<p>A section within a Health Advisor Topic. A Section may be a Subsection to another Section (the Parent Section). The Section hierarchy is limited to two levels, however the structure allows for multiple levels, as defined by a parent-section relationship, identified by ParentSectionId.</p> <p>Examples of Sections: Overview, Related Terms, etc.</p> <p>Examples of Parent Sections: Diagnosis, Failure to Recover, etc.</p> <p>Examples of Sub-Sections: History (sub-section of Diagnosis), Regarding Treatment (sub-section of Failure to Recover), etc.</p>

## 2 API Specification

This section documents the technical usage of the Topic API. General information about any of the MDGuidelines APIs can be found at <https://api.mdguidelines.com/help>.

MDGuidelines APIs are RESTful.

Responses may be formatted as XML or JSON (see Section 2.4 Input Parameters, below).

### 2.1 Endpoint

The Topic API endpoint is: <https://api.mdguidelines.com/api/v2/topic>

### 2.2 Authentication

The Organization’s API license key must be provided via the request headers as “RG-LICENSE-KEY”. This key will be provided by the Client’s Account Executive.

### 2.3 Version Information

The current version of this API is v2. Old versions are no longer supported, effective February 17, 2024.

### 2.4 Parameters

Data Element	Data Type	Req?	Format	Data Element Description	Length/Max Length	Default Value
TopicId	Integer	Conditional	N/A	Preferred identifier for requesting Health Advisor Topic content.  Valid TopicId values may be obtained from the Topic Search API.  Either TopicId or TopicUrl must be provided. If both TopicId and TopicUrl are provided, only TopicId will be used. TopicUrl will only be used if TopicId is empty.	N/A	NA

TopicUrl	String	Conditional		<p>Relative URL used to identify the requested Health Advisor Topic.</p> <p>Valid TopicUrl values may be obtained from the Topic Search API.</p> <p>Either TopicId or TopicUrl must be provided.</p> <p>Either TopicId or TopicUrl must be provided. If both TopicId and TopicUrl are provided, only TopicId will be used. TopicUrl will only be used if TopicId is empty.</p> <p>Example: carpal-tunnel-syndrome</p>	255	N/A
Sections	String	No	Comma-delimited list of integers e.g. 1, 2, 25, 12	<p>A list of SectionIds to return for the requested topic.</p> <p>Leave empty to request all available sections.</p>	500	N/A
SectionIdList	Boolean	No	true/false	Indicator to request a list of SectionIds for the requested Topic.	N/A	False

## 2.5 Response

Data can be returned as JSON or XML.

If using XML, the XSD may be found here: <https://api.mdguidelines.com/xsd/topicV2.xsd>

Data Element	Data Type	Req?	Format	Data Element Description	Length	Default Value
Title	String	Yes		The name of the Health Advisor Topic. Example: "Carpal Tunnel Syndrome"	255	N/A
TopicUrl	String	Yes		The relative URL for the Health Advisor Topic. This URL may be appended to the base topic URL path to find the full URI.  Example: "carpal-tunnel-syndrome"  And with the base topic URL path this would become: <a href="https://app.mdguidelines.com/health-advisor/mda/carpal-tunnel-syndrome">https://app.mdguidelines.com/health-advisor/mda/carpal-tunnel-syndrome</a>	255	N/A
TopicId	Integer	Yes		The TopicId for the Topic.		N/A
SectionIds	Complex Type	No		List of available of Sections by Id for the Health Advisor Topic. The entire list of SectionIds will be returned, independent of what is requested in Sections parameter.  Included in the response when SectionIdList = true	500	N/A
SectionId	Integer	Yes		Identifier of a Section.  See Section 2.5.1 below for a list of possible Sections and SectionIds.		N/A
Sections	Complex Type	Yes		A collection of the requested Sections, based on those Sections which are available for the requested Topic.		N/A
SectionId	Integer	Yes		Identifier of a Section.  See Section 2.5.1 Available Sections, below, for a list of possible Sections and SectionIds.		N/A
SectionTitle	String	Yes		Name of the Section		N/A
ParentSectionId	Integer	Yes		The SectionId of the current Section's Parent Section. If the current Section has is a top-level Section, the ParentSectionId will be 0.		0

Data Element	Data Type	Req?	Format	Data Element Description	Length	Default Value
SectionText	String	Yes	HTML	<p>HTML formatted text for the current Section.</p> <p><b>Note 1:</b> Most of the markup should be links to other MDGuidelines pages or standard HTML formatting, such as unordered lists.</p> <p>Links to other MDGuidelines pages will be formatted without the base URL. For example a link to <a href="https://app.mdguidelines.com/health-advisor/mda/carpal-tunnel-release">https://app.mdguidelines.com/health-advisor/mda/carpal-tunnel-release</a> will appear as '/health-advisor/mda/carpal-tunnel-release'.</p> <p><b>Note 2:</b> See Comments related to Length of Disability Section in 2.5.1 Available Sections, below.</p>		N/A

### 2.5.1 Available Sections

The following Section definitions are common for all Health Advisor Topics. Not all Topics have the same Sections available. If a given Topic does not have content in a particular Section, that Section will not be included in the Sections response. However, all SectionIds will be returned in the SectionIds response, when requested.

SectionID	ParentID	Name	Notes
1	0	Related Terms	
2	0	Overview	
3	0	Causation and Known Risk Factors	
4	2	Incidence and Prevalence	
7	0	Reason for Procedure	
8	0	How Procedure is Performed	
9	0	Diagnosis	
11	9	History	
12	9	Physical Examination	
13	9	Tests	
14	0	Treatment	
15	0	Prognosis	
16	0	Differential Diagnosis	
18	0	Rehabilitation	
19	18	Rehabilitation Disclaimer	
20	18	Rehabilitation Table Footnotes	

21	0	Ability to Work	
23	0	Comorbid Conditions	
24	0	Complications	
25	26	Factors Influencing Duration	
26	0	Length of Disability	
28	0	Maximum Medical Improvement	
29	0	Failure to Recover	
30	29	Regarding Diagnosis	
31	29	Regarding Treatment	
32	29	Regarding Prognosis	
37	21	Risk	
38	21	Capacity	
39	21	Tolerance	
40	21	Accommodations	
41	0	Hospital Costs	
42	0	References	
43	18	Rehabilitation Table	
44	69	Work Relatedness	
48	69	Signs and Symptoms	
49	69	Diagnostic Criteria	
50	69	Test Recommendations	
51	69	Red Flags	
52	69	Treatment Recommendations	
53	69	Follow-up Care	
54	69	Workflows	
56	69	Medical History Questionnaire	
59	69	Risk Factors	
60	69	Causation	
61	69	Initial Assessment	
62	69	Classification	
63	69	Job Analysis	
64	42	Link to ACOEM References	
65	0	Contributors	
67	0	Activity Restrictions and Modifications	
69	0	Related ACOEM Guidelines Content	
70	69	Attribution	

## 2.6 Exception Conditions and Troubleshooting

The service may provide response codes, for success or errors. The common response codes implemented in the MDGuidelines API are documented at <https://api.mdguidelines.com/help>.

Response Status

Status Code	Cause(s)
206	<p>Message:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partial Content</li> </ul> <p>This response will be returned in the following scenarios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This code will also be returned when the requested Sections include section IDs that are invalid or unavailable for the requested Topic.</li> <li>Known issue: This code is also being returned for complete successful scenarios.</li> </ul>
400	<p>Messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following parameter is required: [topicId]</li> </ul> <p>This response will be returned in the following scenarios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A topic ID and Topic URL was missing</li> </ul>
401	<p>Message:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>License code not authorized.</li> </ul> <p>This response will be returned in the following scenarios:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>License key is expired</li> <li>License key is missing</li> <li>License key is otherwise invalid</li> </ul>
500	<p>Server error.</p> <p>If the server, API site, or this service failed, the response will be a 500 Server error.</p>

2.7 Testing

MDGuidelines supports two methods for integration testing:

1. Test Harness Page
  - a. <https://api.mdguidelines.com/help/topics-v2.html>
  - b. Requires production license key configuration (RG-LICENSE-KEY)
2. API Testing tool, such as Postman
  - a. <https://www.getpostman.com/apps>



## 2.8 Sample Code

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### JQuery

```
var uri = "https://api.mdguidelines.com/api/v2/topic";
uri += "&topicId=354.0";
uri += "&Sions=true";
uri += "&SionIdList=true";
```

OR

```
var uri = "https://api.mdguidelines.com/api/v2/topic";
uri += "&topicUrl=icd9cm";
uri += "&Sions=true";
uri += "&SionIdList=true";
```

```
uri = uri.replace("&", "?");
```

```
$.ajax({
  url: uri,
  type: 'GET',
  dataType: 'json',
  headers: { 'RG-LICENSE-KEY': 'XXXXXXXX-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX', },
  success: function (data) { handleData(data) },
  error: function (xhr, status, error) { handleError(xhr, status, error) }
})
```

## Document Revision History

Date	Reason For Changes	Document Version
03/11/2016	Initial Version	1.0
05/05/2016	Correction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous specification incorrectly identified the stable version of the API service and the endpoint path as v1. It is actually v2. There is no change to the API service itself.</li> </ul>	1.1
9/23/2016	Corrections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The name and end point of this service is actually “topic”, corrected from “topics”.</li> </ul>	1.2
06/27/2017	Clarifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Added Response Status details (Section 2.6)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Known issue with status code 206 instead of 200.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Added sample JQUERY</li> </ul>	1.3
12/6/2023	Misc. Updates and Corrections	1.4