



MDGuidelines® API: Topic Search v3 Specification 1.1

Date: January 23, 2026

1 Overview

1.1 Purpose and Intended Audience

The purpose of this document is to provide detailed descriptions and specifications for the Topic Search v3 API for MDGuidelines® clients.

The Topic Search API is intended to be used by MDGuidelines Customers and Partners that have integrated MDGuidelines into their own products who want to find Topics related to a keyword or medical code.

The Topic Search API is part of the MDGuidelines API product offering.

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 Search v3 API provides a paginated list of Topic search results and information about the available Topics, to help the integrated system users access the Topic information.

Terminology

Term	Definition
Topic	A document covering a condition (diagnosis or procedure) from the MDGuidelines Health Advisor content.
Durations	<p>Return to work guidelines based on the Topic and treatment factors. The Topic Search API simply returns an indicator about whether the listed Topic has associated Physiological Durations.</p> <p>The Durations content may be obtained via the Durations API or by viewing the Topic in the website.</p>

Term	Definition
DART	<p>Diagnosis and Related Treatments tool. Sourced from the American College of Occupational and Environment Medicine (ACOEM), the tool provides detailed support based on evidence reviews for or against the use of a given treatment or diagnostic intervention for the given condition.</p> <p>DART data is associated to Topics. The Topic Search API simply returns an indicator about whether the listed Topic has associated DART data, and maybe accessed via the Topic or the DART tool in the website.</p> <p>DART data is available via API.</p>
Rehabilitation	<p>Rehabilitation frequency guidelines. Topics may have content related to patient rehabilitation. In particular, the Topic Rehabilitation section may include specific details about the frequency of visits related to the type of rehabilitation.</p> <p>Rehabilitation frequency content is available via API.</p>

2 API Specification

This section documents the technical usage of the Topic Search 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 Parameters](#), below).

This information will also be published at <https://api.mdguidelines.com/help/topicsearch-v3.html>. Currently, this help page includes a test harness form (see [Section 2.7 Testing](#), below).

2.1 Endpoint

The Topic Search v3 API endpoint is: <https://api.mdguidelines.com/api/v3/topicsearch>

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 Customer's Account Executive at MDGuidelines.

2.3 Version Information

The current version of this API is v3. 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
Term	String	Yes	N/A	The search term to find one or more matching Topics. Use keywords or medical codes. The Term parameter is provided as part of the URI, e.g., https://api.mdguidelines.com/api/v3/topicsearch/carpal	N/A	NA
Rows	Integer	No	N/A	The number of search results to return. If no value is provided, then the response will include up to 10 results. Use to set pagination size.	N/A	10
Start	Integer	No	N/A	The starting row number (result number) for returning subsequent pages of results. The row numbers start at 0. Use to return subsequent pages in paginated results.	N/A	0

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/TopicSearchV3.xsd>

Data Element	Data Type	Req?	Format	Data Element Description	Length	Default Value
TopicId	Integer	Yes		The unique identifier for a Topic. TopicId may be used to request data from other Topic-related APIs, such as Durations.		N/A
Title	String	Yes		The name of the Topic. Example: "Carpal Tunnel Syndrome"	255	N/A

FullUrl	String	Yes		The full URL of the Topic. Topic URLs may change over time and should be considered attributes of a Topic.	255	N/A
Description	String	No		A snippet from the Topic Overview section, to be used to help an end user determine which Topic result they are interested in.	255	N/A

HasDurations	Boolean	Yes	true/false	An indicator of whether the Topic has related Durations content. When true, then the Topic has Durations. When false, then the Topic does not have Durations.		N/A
HasDart	Boolean	Yes	true/false	An indicator of whether the Topic has related DART content. When true, then the Topic has DART. When false, then the Topic does not have DART.		N/A
HasRehab	Boolean	No	true/false	An indicator of whether the Topic has related Rehabilitation Frequency guidelines. When true, then the Topic has Rehabilitation information. When false, then the Topic does not have Rehabilitation information.		N/A
Icd9cm	String	No		If available, a comma-delimited list of associated ICD-9-CM medical codes for the Topic. If not available, this element will not be returned.		N/A
Icd10who	String	No		If available, a comma-delimited list of associated ICD-10-WHO medical codes for the Topic. If not available, this element will not be returned.		N/A
Icd10cm	String	No		If available, a comma-delimited list of associated ICD-10-CM medical codes for the Topic. If not available, this element will not be returned.		N/A

cpt	String	No		<p>If available, a comma-delimited list of associated CPT® medical codes for the Topic.</p> <p>If not available, this element will not be returned.</p> <p>If the API license does not include CPT® access, this element will not be returned at all.</p>		N/A
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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>.

If the API or this service is unavailable, the response will be a 500 Server error.

2.7 Testing

MDGuidelines offers a test harness for integration testing:

<https://api.mdguidelines.com/help/topicsearch-v3.html>

Note: use of the test harness requires production license key configuration (RG-LICENSE-KEY)

2.8 Sample Code

JQuery

```

var uri = "https://api.mdguidelines.com/api/v3/topicsearch/";
uri += "carpal";
uri += "&rows=10";
uri += "&start=0";
uri += "&role=DEFAULT";

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

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

```

Document Revision History

Date	Reason For Changes	Document Version
06/27/2017	Initial Version of specification for v3 * v3 offers additional support for CPT® codes, available with additional license.	1.0
12/6/2023	Update to CPT® copyright text. Fixed typographical errors including link to help page and some references to the v3 endpoint.	1.1
1/23/2026	Updated copyright dates	1.1.1