

10.4.1 Generation of OIDs

OpenClinica uses Object Identifiers (OIDs, sometimes referred to as [OpenClinica IDs](#)) to link objects to one another, and enforce uniqueness within an instance of OpenClinica (with the exception of Rule OIDs, which must only be unique within a study). We currently utilize OIDs for the following objects in OpenClinica:

- CRFs
- CRF Versions
- Item Groups
- Items
- Measurement Units
- Rules
- Study Event Definitions
- Studies
- Sites
- Study Subjects

Each OID generated by OpenClinica starts with a prefix based on the type of entity, followed by *n* characters taken from the start of the proper name of the object (alpha-numeric only and converted to all caps), plus a random number at the end if the OID already exists in the database. This random number is generally 3-4 characters long (345, 5678, etc). Each part of the OID is separated by underscores. Using this scheme, we generate the following OIDs for objects:

- CRF: F + first 12 alpha-numeric characters in the CRF Name + random number if necessary (e.g. F_PHYSEXAM_7133)
- CRF Version: the CRF OID + the first 10 alpha-numeric characters in the CRF Version Name + random number if necessary
- Item Group: IG + first 5 alpha-numeric characters in the CRF Name + all the alpha-numeric characters in the Item Group Label + random number if necessary
- Item: I + first 5 alpha-numeric characters in the CRF Name + first 26 alpha-numeric characters in the Item Label + random number if necessary
- Measurement Unit: MU + first 37 alpha-numeric characters in the measurement unit name + random number if necessary
- Rule: generated by user input at the Import Rules stage of OpenClinica. Must be alpha-numeric and all caps (underscores allowed) with a maximum 40 characters. Each Rule OID must be unique within the study that it is uploaded to.
- Study Event Definition: SE + first 28 alpha-numeric characters in study event definition name + random number if necessary
- Study: S + first 8 alpha-numeric characters in the Studys Unique Protocol ID + random number if necessary
- Site: S + first 8 alpha-numeric characters in the Studys Unique Protocol ID + random number if necessary
- Study Subject: SS + all alpha-numeric characters in the Study Subject ID + random number if necessary. Each Study Subject OID will be unique within the entire OpenClinica instance. In ODM, Study Subjects are given a SubjectKey to identify a specific subject that is unique within the study, while OpenClinica Study Subject OIDs are unique across all studies in the instance.

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