



MDGuidelines® API: ACOEM Recommendations (DART) v2 Specification 2.3

Date: December 6, 2025

1 Overview

1.1 Purpose and Intended Audience

The purpose of this document is to provide detailed descriptions and specifications for the ACOEM Recommendations (DART) v2 API for MDGuidelines® clients.

The ACOEM Recommendations (DART) API is intended to be used by MDGuidelines customers and partners that have integrated MDGuidelines into their own products and wish to display Diagnosis and Related Treatments content within their application.

The ACOEM Recommendations (DART) API is part of the MDGuidelines API product offering.

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

1.2 Description

The ACOEM Recommendations (DART) v2 API provides the rich text treatment recommendations of an individual MDGuidelines Topic.

Terminology

Term	Definition
DART	DART is an acronym for Diagnosis And Related Treatments. This tool, which is now known as ACOEM Recommendations, provides recommendations to inform clinicians about evidence-based treatment approaches.
Topic	A diagnosis or procedure covered by the ACOEM Recommendations (DART) tool.
Guideline	Guideline refers to a clinical practice guideline developed by the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM).
Category	A category specifies the type of treatment. (See the Category Reference Table below)
Phase	A phase specifies the time frame of the condition or surgical activity. (See the Phase Values Table below)

2 API Specification

This section documents the technical usage of the ACOEM Recommendations (DART) v2 API. General information about any of the MDGuidelines APIs can be found at <https://api.mdguidelines.com>.

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

2.1 Endpoint

The ACOEM Recommendations (DART) v2 API endpoint is:
<https://api.mdguidelines.com/api/v2/darts>

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 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	Yes*	N/A	Valid TopicId values may be obtained from the ACOEM Recommendations API. *Note: Either Topic Name or Topic Id are required. Both may be provided, but at least one of these fields must be provided in a valid request.	N/A	NA

TopicName	String	Yes*	N/A	The search term to find one or more matching Topics. *Note: Either Topic Name or TopicId are required. Both may be provided, but at least one of these fields must be provided in a valid request.	N/A	NA
CategoryId	String	No		Return a result for a specific treatment category. Valid CategoryId values may be obtained from the Category Reference Table below. Leave empty to request all available categories.	255	N/A
Phase	String	No		Return results for a specific treatment phase. Valid Phase values may be obtained from the Phase Values Table below. Note: All surgical phases can be returned by requesting "Surgical" or may be further specified. Leave empty to request all available phases.	500	N/A

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/DartsV2.xsd>

Data Element	Data Type	Req?	Format	Data Element Description	Length	Default Value
DartID	Integer	Yes		The DartID for a specific Topic. Example: "114"		N/A

TopicID	Integer	Yes		The TopicID for the Topic, provided in the initial API call. Example: "10733"		N/A
Guideline	String	Yes		The name of recommended guideline. Example: Ankle and foot injuries.		N/A
TreatmentName	String	Yes		The name of the recommended treatment. Example: "NSAIDS"		N/A

Data Element	Data Type	Req?	Format	Data Element Description	Length	Default Value
RecLevelDescription	String	Yes		Text identifying if the treatment is recommended. Valid values may be obtained from the Recommendation Level Table below.	21	N/A
RecLevelSortOrder	Integer	Yes		An integer to support ordering the recommendation level results. Valid values may be obtained from the Recommendation Level Table below.		N/A
CategoryId	String	Yes		The CategoryId for the Category		
CategoryDescription	String	Yes		The text description of the Category.		N/A
CategorySortOrder	Integer	Yes		Valid values may be obtained from the Category Reference Table below		N/A
EvidenceStrengthDescription	String			The strength of evidence supporting the recommendation level. Valid values may be obtained from the Evidence Strength Table below.		

EvidenceStrengthSortOrder	Integer			An integer to support ordering the Evidence Strength results, from most favorable to least favorable.		
ConfidenceDescription	String			Text description of the Confidence rating for the treatment. Valid values may be obtained from the Confidence Description Table below.		
EvidenceSummary	String			Text summary of the medical evidence utilized in the treatment rating		
RecommendationSummary	String			Text summary of how/when treatment should take place.		
Acute	String	Yes	Y/N	Acute is the phase of the condition.		
Chronic	String	Yes	Y/N	Acute is the phase of the condition.		
Perioperative	String	Yes	Y/N	Perioperative is the phase of the surgery.		
Postoperative	String	Yes	Y/N	Postoperative is the phase of the surgery.		
Preoperative	String	Yes	Y/N	Preoperative is the phase of the surgery.		
Subacute	String	Yes	Y/N	Subacute is the phase of the condition.		

Data Element	Data Type	Req?	Format	Data Element Description	Length	Default Value
SeveritySevere	String	No	Y/N	For conditions related to traumatic brain injuries, when the value of this indicator is Y, the recommendation applies to injuries with Severe Severity. For conditions not related to traumatic brain injuries, this field will be empty. Three broad acuity categories (severity) of TBI are commonly used: mild, moderate, and severe. Refer to the ACOEM TBI Guideline for a description of each severity.		

SeverityModerate	String	No	Y/N	<p>For conditions related to traumatic brain injuries, when the value of this indicator is Y, the recommendation applies to injuries with Moderate Severity. For conditions not related to traumatic brain injuries, this field will be empty.</p> <p>Three broad acuity categories (severity) of TBI are commonly used: mild, moderate, and severe. Refer to the ACOEM TBI Guideline for a description of each severity.</p>		
SeverityMild	String	No	Y/N	<p>For conditions related to traumatic brain injuries, when the value of this indicator is Y, the recommendation applies to injuries with Mild Severity. For conditions not related to traumatic brain injuries, this field will be empty.</p> <p>Three broad acuity categories (severity) of TBI are commonly used: mild, moderate, and severe. Refer to the ACOEM TBI Guideline for a description of each severity.</p>		
Indications	String	No		Text description outlining when the treatment is indicated.		
FrequencyDoseDuration	String	No		Text description of frequency, dose, and duration of medications.		
Rationale	String	No		Text description of the reasons for the recommendation.		
Harms	String	No		Text description of the harms associated to the treatment.		
Benefits	String	No		Text description of the benefits associated to the treatment.		
IndicationsForDiscontinuation	String	No		Text description of indications for discontinuation of treatment.		
Comments	String	No		Text description of additional information regarding the treatment.		

2.6 Reference Tables

Recommendation Level

RecLevelDescription	RecLevelSortOrder
Recommended	1
Sometimes Recommended	2
Not Recommended	3

Category Reference Table

CategoryId	CategoryDescription	CategorySortOrder
1	Diagnostic Interventions	1
2	Activity Modification and Exercise	2
3	Medications (including topical creams)	3
4	Allied Health Interventions	4
5	Electrical Therapies	5
6	Hot and Cold Therapies	6
7	Devices	7
8	Injection Therapy	8
9	Surgical Considerations	9
10	Behavioral and Psychological Interventions	10
11	Rehabilitation Programs	11

Phase Values

Phases
Acute
Subacute
Chronic
Surgical (Surgical will match any of the *operative phase results below)
Preoperative
Perioperative
Postoperative

Evidence Strength Values

Evidence Strength
Strongly Not Recommended, "A" Level Evidence
Moderately Recommended, "B" Level Evidence
Recommended, "C" Level Evidence
Recommended, Insufficient Evidence (Consensus-based), "I" Level
No Recommendation, Insufficient Evidence (Consensus-based), "I" Level
Not Recommended, Insufficient Evidence (Consensus-based), "I" Level
Not Recommended, "C" Level Evidence
Moderately Not Recommended, "B" Level Evidence

Confidence Description Values

Confidence Description
Low
Moderate
High

2.7 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 are down, the response will be a 500 Server error.

2.8 Testing

MDGuidelines offers a test harness for integration testing:

<https://api.mdguidelines.com/help/dart-v2.html>

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

2.9 Sample Code

JQUERY

```
var uri = "https://api.mdguidelines.com/api/v2/darts;
    uri += "?";
    uri += "&topicname=covid";
    uri += "&topicid=10733";
    uri += "&categoryid=3";
    uri += "&phase=acute";
    $.ajax({
        url: uri,
        type: 'GET',
        dataType: 'json',
        headers: { 'RG-LICENSE-KEY': 'XXXXXXXX-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-
XXXXXXXXXXXXX', },
        success: function (data) { handleData(data) },
        error: function (xhr, status, error) { handleError(xhr, status, error) }
    })
```

Document Revision History

Date	Reason For Changes	Document Version
02/13/2016	Initial Version	1.0
06/27/2017	Minor text and formatting revisions.	1.1
12/16/2017	Addition of new fields in response for Severity, related to Traumatic Brain Injury topics. No new version of the end point, but there is an updated XSD.	2.0
9/23/2020	Additional Guideline field and multiple categories field in search results to filter results for better suggestions	2.1
12/6/2023	Minor text edits	2.2
12/6/2025	Added "Topic Name" field to support keyword searches	2.3