

Documenting Business Rules

Objectives

- Define and compose a structural business rule
- Define and compose a procedural business rule
- Recognize that some business rules will require programming
- Diagram business rules when they can be represented in an ER model

Vocabulary

Directions: Identify the vocabulary word for each definition below.

1. _____ A structural business rule indicates the types of information to be stored and how the information elements interrelate.
2. _____ A formalized statement of the usual, customary, or generalized course of action or behavior for a business.
3. _____ A business rule that is workflow or business process related. (e.g., A has to happen before B, and then C has to happen at the same time as D.) This is also called a process business rule.

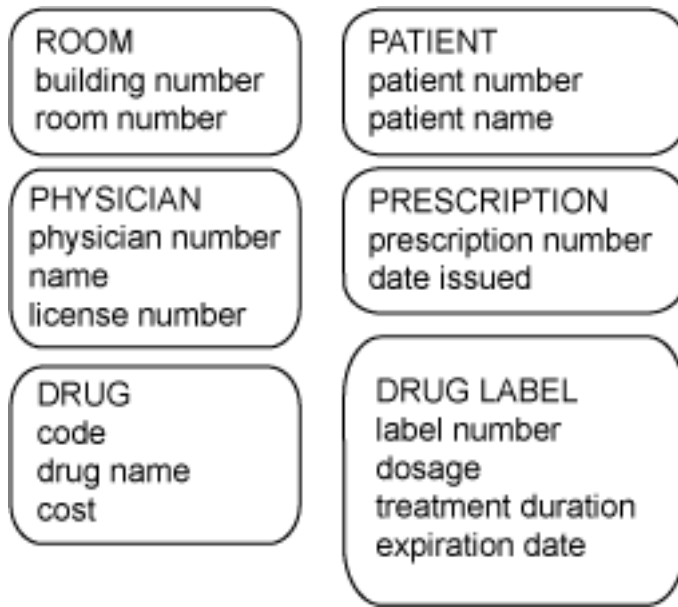
Try It / Solve It

1. Members of your design team have been working with the local hospital to develop a data model for their need to store information about patients, the patient's room number, the patient's doctor, drug prescriptions given, and specific drug information.

However, they all went on vacation and left you to figure out the model. They also failed to give you any of their documentation other than the entities and attributes illustrated here. Instead of going back to the hospital, which could reflect poorly on your company, you're going to have to think about everything you know about hospitals!

Your task is to generate a list of business rules you think were used to arrive at the information shown here. Use your imagination. List 10 structural rules, 5 procedural rules, and 2 programmatic rules (rules to be addressed by computer applications in the future). State each rule as a single sentence.

Based on your set of business rules, draw the ERD.



2. (Optional Practice: Animal Shelter)

This practice is step 1 in the Animal Shelter project.

3. (Optional Practice: Animal Shelter)

This practice is step 2 in the Animal Shelter project.