

Programming Standards for Base SAS and SAS Macros

Devi Sekar, GlaxoSmithKline

mailto: ds30144@gsk.com

Programming standards and documentation are needed to maintain understanding of the code, clarify difficult or unusual code structures, help others to navigate the code, and document changes that have been made, creating an audit trail. When updates are necessary, it is much easier to modify a well-documented program. Programming standards and documentation rules create strong foundation for the software development. The code can be shared and re-used by others easily. With these ideas in view, a team of SAS programmers at GlaxoSmithKline worked over a year and developed a programming standards document for Base SAS and SAS Macros. We felt that the SAS user community can very well use these standards. The document is filled with coding examples, standards, tips, guidelines, and references.

The document covers the following topics on SAS programming documentation and SAS programming techniques.

Documentation includes - Program Header and Footer; Naming Conventions; Library Name Declaration; Filename Declaration; Format Library Declarations; Options Statement; SAS Data Dictionary; Data/ Proc step and Macro documentation; Commenting; and Documenting Changes;

Programming Techniques include – Coding for Readability; Keeping it Simple; Subsetting Data; Merging Data; Formatting Data; Using %sysfunc to avoid Data Steps; Using Macros; Cleaning up; and Practices to avoid.

This document can be obtained by requesting the author at ds30144@gsk.com

Contact Information

Devi Sekar

GlaxoSmithKline

Five Moore Drive

RTP NC 27709

Mailto: ds30144@gsk.com