Vital Signs Data Structure

File should be stored in the _VITALLIB directory as the name _VITALDATA that you specify in your site's StdVars file.

Variable name	Variable Type/Length	Values	Comments
MRN	Character	HMO Identifier unique to an individual	Used to link across files
Measure_Date	Numeric 4 SAS Date	Date the variables are measured	
HT	Numeric 8	Height in inches	Height on measurement date
WT	Numeric 8	Weight in pounds	Weight on measurement date
BMI	Numeric 8	Body Mass Index BMI=round((WT*0.454)/ ((HT*0.0254)*(HT*0.0254)),0.1);	Weight measurement must be present on the same day as BMI value. However, the height value comes from the height measured on the date that is closest to the weight date.
DAYS_DIFF	Numeric 4	Date of Height Measurement minus Date of Weight Measurement	Nonzero values indicate that the BMI score was calculated using a height measurement taken on a different day from the weight measurement. As the absolute value of DAYS_DIFF rises, users should consider carefully whether to use these values. This variable should be present if BMI is present and missing if BMI is missing.
Diastolic	Numeric 4	Diastolic blood pressure	MmHg
Systolic	Numeric 4	Systolic blood pressure	MmHg
Position	Char 1	Blank – unknown 1 – sitting 2 – standing 3 – supine	Position for blood pressure reading

Since weight is likely measured more frequently than height, use the closest height (in terms of dates) to compute BMI.

The “rules”:
If computing BMI on children or young adults, use the DAYS_Diff variable to ensure that the height and weight measurements were measured at close enough dates to be usable. For example, if days_diff>180 or days_diff<-180 and age=5 then consider not using the BMI value.
The values in the HT and WT fields are the values measured on that date. Infer HT to compute BMI, but do not overwrite blank HT fields. For example, if HT is missing and WT and BMI are present, then that shows that the BMI was computed using an inferred height from the closest height (in terms of dates) measurement.
If HT is present and WT is not, do not compute BMI.