



**Race and Ethnicity
Frequently Asked Questions
Updated 3/16/07**

1. Why is WHA Information Center requiring race and ethnicity when it is not required on the claim?

Answer: Race and ethnicity have been required data elements since the administrative code was written to guide the data collection requirements outlined in Wisconsin Statute 153. BHI collected race and ethnicity data, and WHA Information Center continued to do so when we assumed the responsibility for data collection in 2004. The difference lies in the fact that there is an increased interest at the state and national level in the accuracy and completeness of the race and ethnicity data. WHA Information Center receives annual data quality reports from the Healthcare Utilization Project (HCUP) of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. A copy of these reports are sent to BHI from HCUP, therefore DHFS is aware of data quality issues related to race and ethnicity in specific WI hospitals.

Currently, WHA (not WHAIC) is working collaboratively with DHFS to improve the quality of race and ethnicity data in WI hospitals. At the state level the data is used to evaluate potential healthcare disparities. Specific areas of interest are diagnosis and treatment related to cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and tobacco use among others. Race and ethnicity data is also used in some policy-related issues.

Race and ethnicity data are not required for claim payment, however there is a field on the paper UB04 for race and ethnicity (FL 81 B1). The field was designed for public health data reporting when required by state or federal law or regulations. There is a field on the 5010 version of the electronic form, however the 5010 cannot be used until it is HIPAA approved.

Regardless of the claim form limitations, race and ethnicity data must be accurately reported to WHA Information Center per the WI administrative code.

2. The training session WHA is cosponsoring on 2/28/07 is limited to 90 phone lines. Since WHA is no longer accepting registrations how can I access the information?

Answer: The 2/28/07 PowerPoint presentation will be available on the WHA Web site under the Quality and Safety section.

3. Which race response option is appropriate when a patient selects Hispanic or Latino as the ethnicity response option?

Answer: The **most appropriate** response option for race when a patient selects Hispanic or Latino as their ethnicity is the response option the patient self-identifies. The **most common** response options for race in this situation are 'other,' 'white,' and 'unknown.' Again, the patient should choose the option he/she feels is appropriate.

4. Who should select the race and ethnicity response options for newborns?

Answer: The mother should select the response options for the newborn.

5. Which response option should be selected if the patient is multiracial?

Answer: Response option '6. Other' should be selected if the patient is multiracial.