



**Update**  
**January 26, 2007**

**Note: This article is the first of a series relating to data submission changes taking place in 2007.**

**Changes in Wlpop Race and Ethnicity Reporting Follows National Standards:**

Starting with the 1Q07 data submission, WHA Information Center will require that hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers use the race and ethnicity category descriptions and codes that are used at the federal level by the Office of Management and Budget and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The purpose of the change is to collect and report data in a manner that is consistent with national standards so that data is comparable across states. Race and ethnicity reporting to WHIAC is required for all data types except emergency room visit data per the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

Over the past year we received feedback from the Health Care Utilization Project (HCUP) of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality that approximately five percent of Wisconsin hospitals submitted 2004 data that did not meet HCUP's data quality and edit checks. All of these hospitals have been notified and we hope to see improvement starting with mid-2006 data. The fact that Wisconsin data is submitted to this national database emphasizes the need for Wisconsin facilities to use the national codes and definitions.

WHA Information Center supports the national methodology whereby hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers use a system that allows for patients or family members to select from the race and ethnicity categories, rather than a system where hospital staff makes the selections. The categories and definitions patients can choose from in 2007 are similar to those used previously. Prior to 2007 the categories for race were (1) American Indian or Alaskan Native, (2) Asian or Pacific Islander, (3) Black, (4) White, (5) Other (more than on race), (6) Unknown (a person who refuses to answer the question), and (9) Not Asked (the patient or a family member was not able to answer the question). In 2007 the categories are (1) American Indian or Alaskan Native, (2) Asian, (3) **Black or African American**, (4) **Native Hawaiian** or other Pacific Islander, (5) White, (6) Other, (7) Unknown, or (9) Not Asked.

Prior to 2007 the ethnicity categories were (1) Hispanic origin, (2) Not Hispanic origin, (6) Unknown, and (9) Not Asked. In 2007 the categories are (1) Hispanic **or Latino** origin, (2) Not Hispanic **or Latino** origin, (7) Unknown, or (9) Not Asked.

The most significant difference in the race categories is that the Asian or Pacific Islander race category was split into two categories, which affected the numeric sequencing for several of the other categories. To facilitate these changes hospital registration staff will need to collect updated race information from patients previously assigned to the Asian or Pacific Islander category, and IT staff will need to develop a mechanism to map the previous race and ethnicity codes to the current coding system.

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WHA and the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services are cosponsoring a Webinar training session on race and ethnicity data collection on February 28 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Hospital registration personnel are encouraged to participate. Registration information is available at <http://www.wha.org/education/other.aspx>.

Questions regarding the new race and ethnicity reporting requirements should be directed to Debbie Rickelman of WHAIC at [drickelman@wha.org](mailto:drickelman@wha.org).

### Important Dates and Deadlines

**February 15: Standard deadline to submit 4Q06 inpatient, outpatient surgery, emergency-department and observation data; and 3Q06 other hospital outpatient (OHO) data.**

**February 28: Race and ethnicity data collection Webinar and audioconference, 10:00 a.m. to noon.**