



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Mike Beebe

Nathaniel Smith, MD, MPH, Director and State Health Officer

Memorandum

Date: August 12, 2014
To: Data Submitters
From: Lynda Lehing, Hospital Data Section Chief
Subject: 2014 Data Submittal Guides Update: "Patient Race" & "Patient Ethnicity" Coding

The Hospital Data Section is updating the coding for the "Patient Race" and the "Patient Ethnicity" fields to be in line with The Office of Management and Budget Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity, Statistical Policy Directive No. 15, October 30, 1997 (available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/fedreg_directive_15/). Currently, the "Patient Race" field is:

- 1 = American Indian or Alaskan Native
- 2 = Asian or Pacific Islander
- 3 = Black
- 4 = White
- 5 = Other
- 6 = Unknown.

As of January 1, 2015, the coding for the "Patient Race" field will be:

- 1 = American Indian or Alaskan Native
- 2 = Asian
- 3 = Black or African American
- 4 = White
- 5 = Other
- 6 = Unknown (for use if patient refuses or fails to disclose)
- 7 = Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Please note that "Asian" race has been separated from "Pacific Islander" race. The "Asian" race will be coded as "2" and "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander" will be coded as "7".

The numerical coding for Patient Ethnicity will not change, but "Latino" will be added to the definition. As of January 1, 2015, the coding for the Patient Ethnicity" field will be:

- 1 = Hispanic or Latino
- 2 = Non-Hispanic or Latino
- 6 = Unknown

Again, these changes will take effect on January 1, 2015. The updates will be incorporated in the next scheduled revision of the Data Submittal Guides. If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me at lynda.lehing@arkansas.gov or (501) 661-2231. Thank you for your assistance in the collection of quality hospital data.