

# RACE AND ETHNICITY DEFINITIONS

## RACE<sup>1</sup>

### American Indian/Alaska Native

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

### Asian

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent, including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, Vietnam.

### Black or African American

A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. Includes terms such as “Haitian,” “Dominican,” or “Somali.”

### Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

### White

A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

## ETHNICITY<sup>1</sup>

### Hispanic/Latino Origin

A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

### Not Hispanic or Latino

A person who is not of Hispanic or Latino origin.

## OTHER CATEGORIES USED BY HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS

### Declined

A person who declines to choose a race category or who cannot identify himself or herself as one of the listed races. May also be used for a person who declines to answer the ethnicity question or who cannot identify himself or herself as Hispanic or Not Hispanic.

### Unavailable or unknown

Select this category if the patient is unable to physically respond, there is no available family member or caregiver to respond for the patient, or if for any other reason, the demographic portion of the medical record cannot be completed. Health care organizations may also call this field “unable to complete” or “other.”

<sup>1</sup> Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President. Provisional Guidance on the Implementation of the 1997 Standards for Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity. December 15, 2000. [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/information\\_and\\_regulatory\\_affairs/re\\_guidance2000update.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/information_and_regulatory_affairs/re_guidance2000update.pdf). Accessed September 2014.