

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COLLECTION OF PATIENT RACE, ETHNICITY, LANGUAGE & BIRTHPLACE

Target Audience:	Patients, Admissions Staff, Cancer Registrars, and Medical Records Directors
Purpose:	This document provides answers to questions that are frequently asked by patients during the registration/admissions process. Hospitals and medical facilities can attach this list of questions and answers to registration/admissions forms that patients fill out themselves and may also choose to post this document in the registration/admissions area for staff to reference.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE COLLECTION OF PATIENT RACE,
ETHNICITY, LANGUAGE & BIRTHPLACE**

Q: WHAT DO MY RACE AND ETHNICITY HAVE TO DO WITH MY HEALTH?

A: Although we are all individual people, our racial and ethnic backgrounds may place us at differing risks for some diseases. We can work to reduce these risks by making sure that everyone gets high quality health care.

Q: WHY AM I BEING ASKED THESE QUESTIONS?

A: We are collecting information on race, ethnicity, language and birthplace from all of our patients. By knowing more about your racial and ethnic background and where you were born, we can get a better idea of health risks you may have and we will be better able to meet your health needs.

Q: WHO ARE YOU COLLECTING THIS INFORMATION FROM?

A: We are collecting this information from all patients that we see.

Q: WHAT WILL MY INFORMATION BE USED FOR?

A: By providing us with information on your race, ethnicity, birthplace, and language, you are helping us to provide better services and programs to you and others like you. For example, with this information, we can provide health information in languages spoken by our patients and offer effective programs that can improve health.

Q: WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?

A: It is perfectly alright if you do not want to answer some or all of the questions. However, this information does help our physicians provide better care. Regardless of whether you answer these questions, we will provide you care.

Q: WHO CAN I ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS?

A: The staff and your physician are happy to answer any questions that you may have about why you are being asked about your race, ethnicity, language and birthplace.

Q: WHO WILL SEE MY INFORMATION?

A: Your information is kept private and confidential and is protected by law. The only people who will see your information are admissions staff, your physician and others who are authorized to see your medical record.

Q: WHAT IF I BELONG TO MORE THAN ONE RACE?

A: You can check off more than one race that you belong to.

Q: WHAT IF I DON'T KNOW MY RACE OR ETHNICITY?

A: If you don't know your race or ethnicity, you can leave those questions blank.

Q: WHAT DO YOU CARE? WE'RE ALL HUMANS.

A: Information about your race and ethnicity helps us make sure we provide the highest quality of care for all patients. Studies show that our racial and ethnic backgrounds may place us at different risks for certain diseases. By knowing more about your racial and ethnic background, we can get a better idea of health risks you may have and better meet your health needs.

Q: CAN'T YOU TELL BY LOOKING AT ME?

A: Every person is different, so we do not make any assumptions based on how a person looks.

Q: ARE YOU TRYING TO FIND OUT IF I AM A U.S. CITIZEN?

A: No, definitely not. This information is confidential and used only to improve your health care. No questions regarding citizenship or documentation are asked.

Q: ISN'T THAT AN ILLEGAL QUESTION TO ASK?

A: No, it is not illegal to ask. Collecting and reporting race, ethnicity, language and birthplace are legal under the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 and several California State laws. However, you may choose not to answer any question.