

**OFFICE OF STATEWIDE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND  
AMBULATORY SURGERY DATA REPORTING MANUAL,  
MEDICAL INFORMATION REPORTING FOR CALIFORNIA, FOURTH EDITION**

**ETHNICITY**

**Section 97254**

*The ethnicity shall be as self-reported by the patient or patient's guardian in cases where the patient is not capable of providing the information. The patient's ethnicity shall be reported as one choice from the following list of alternatives under ethnicity:*

**DISCUSSION**

Specifications for reporting this data element with the Record Entry Form for online web entry of individual records or online data file transmission for encounters occurring on or after January 1, 2006:

<b>ETHNICITY</b>		
E1 Hispanic or Latino		
E2 Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino		
99 Unknown		
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**(a) *Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity***

**DISCUSSION**

A person who identifies with or is of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture or origin. This may include the following groups: Andalusian, Argentinean, Asturian, Balearic Islander, Bolivian, Castilian, Catalonian, Canarian, Central American Indian, Chicano, Chilean, Columbian, Costa Rican, Criollo, Dominican, Ecuadorian, Gallego, Guatemalan, Honduran, La Raza, Latin American, Mexican American, Mexican American Indian, Mexicano, Nicaraguan, Panamanian, Paraguayan, Peruvian, Salvadorian, South American Indian, Spaniard, Spanish Basque, Uruguayan, Valencian, and Venezuelan.

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**(b) Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino Ethnicity**

**(c) Unknown**

DISCUSSION

If the patient's ethnicity is not recorded in the patient's medical record, the patient's ethnicity should be reported as "Unknown" (code 99). This category includes patients who cannot or refuse to declare ethnicity.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION FOR **ALL** CATEGORIES

Determining Ethnicity:

- Hispanic origin or descent is not to be confused with race. A person of Hispanic origin may be of any race.
- The patient's ethnicity data may be most accurately obtained directly from the patient. Self-identification may include the use of a form presenting choices.
- The quality of ethnicity data deteriorates when determination is based upon the patient's or a family member's name, physical appearance, place of birth, or primary language.
- If the patient is unable to respond, a family member may declare the patient's ethnicity.

Legality of Inquiring of patient's Race and/or Ethnicity:

There is no known law stating that it is illegal to ask patients for information on their race and/or ethnicity. Section 97254 of the California Code of Regulations states "***the patient's ethnicity shall be reported.***"