

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND INFORMATION  
CALIFORNIA PATIENT DATA REPORTING MANUAL**

**ABSTRACT RECORD NUMBER (Optional)**

DISCUSSION

Specifications for reporting this data element with the Record Entry Form for online web entry of individual records or online data file transmission:

<b>ABSTRACT RECORD NUMBER (Optional)</b>											

In order to identify a particular patient's record from all others within the data submission, a unique code consisting of not more than 12 alphanumeric characters may be reported. The abstract record number is optional.

When the abstract record number is reported, it:

- May be used by HCAI and the reporting facility to identify specific records for correction and outcome studies.
- Will be deleted prior to release of public data.
- May be the medical record number.
- May include hyphens or slashes. Other special characters (e.g., period, comma, and apostrophe) must not be included.
- Should be reported from the left-most position of the field. Do not fill blank spaces with zeroes.