

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND INFORMATION  
CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND  
AMBULATORY SURGERY PATIENT DATA REPORTING MANUAL, FIFTH EDITION**

**RACE**

**Section 97253**

***Effective with encounters occurring on and after January 1, 2019, the race shall be as self-reported by the patient or the patient’s guardian in cases where the patient is not capable of providing the information. The patient’s race shall be reported as up to five choices from the following list of alternatives:***

**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>RACE</b>			
R1	American Indian or Alaska Native	a.	d.
R2	Asian		
R3	Black or African American	b.	e.
R4	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		
R5	White	c.	
R9	Other Race		
99	Unknown		

**(1) American Indian or Alaska Native**

**DISCUSSION**

A person having origins in or who identifies with any of the original peoples of North and South America, and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.

**(2) Asian**

**DISCUSSION**

A person having origins in or who identifies with Asian Indian, Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Burmese, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Iwo Jiman, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Madagascar, Malaysian, Maldivian, Nepalese, Okinawan, Pakistani, Singaporean, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai, and Vietnamese.

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**(3) *Black or African American***

DISCUSSION

A person having origins in or who identifies with any of the black racial groups including Botswanan, Ethiopian, Liberian, Namibian, Nigerian, Zairean, Barbadian, Bahamian, Dominican, Haitian, Jamaican, Tobagoan, Trinidadian, and West Indian.

**(4) *Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander***

DISCUSSION

A person having origins in or who identifies with the following groups: Native Hawaiian, Carolinian, Chamorro, Chuukese (Trukese), Fijian, Guamanian, Kiribati, Kosraean, Mariana Islander, Marshallese, Melanesian, Micronesian, Mariana Islander, New Hebrides, Palauan, Papua New Guinean, Pohnpeian, Polynesian, Saipanese, Samoan, Solomon Islander, Tahitian, Tokelauan, Tongan, and Yapese.

**(5) *White***

DISCUSSION

A person having origins in or who identifies with any of the original Caucasian peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East. This may include the following groups: Armenian, English, French, German, Irish, Italian, Polish, Scottish, Middle Eastern, North African, Assyrian, Egyptian, Iranian, Iraqi, Lebanese, Palestinian, Syrian, Afghanistani, Israeili, and Arab.

**(6) *Other Race***

DISCUSSION

Includes any possible options not covered in the above categories. Other race should only be used if a patient has self-declared a race that does not fit in another category or has specifically chosen Other. Other should never be used in lieu of allowing the patient to select multiple races.

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**(7) Unknown**

DISCUSSION

- If the patient's race is not recorded in the patient's medical record, the race should be reported as "Unknown." This category includes patients who cannot or refuse to declare race.
- "Unknown" should not be reported with any other race or races.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION FOR **ALL** CATEGORIES

Determining Race:

- The patient's race data may be most accurately obtained directly from the patient. Self-identification may include the use of a form presenting choices.
- The quality of race 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 race.

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 97253 of the California Code of Regulations states "***the patient's race shall be reported.***"