

PROPOSED REVISED RACE CODING RULES
Approved by NAACCR Uniform Data Standards Committee October 28, 2003

Race (and ethnicity) are defined by specific physical, heredity and cultural traditions or origins, not necessarily by birthplace, place of residence, or citizenship. 'Origin' is defined by the Census Bureau as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or in some cases, the country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States.

All resources in the facility, including the medical record, face sheet, physician and nursing notes, photographs, and any other sources, must be used to determine race. If a facility does not print race in the medical record but does maintain it in electronic form, the electronic data must also be reviewed.

Recommendation: document how the race code was determined in a text field.

1. Record the primary race(s) of the patient in fields Race 1, Race 2, Race 3, Race 4, and Race 5. The five race fields allow for the coding of multiple races consistent with the Census 2000. Rules 2 - 8 further specify how to code Race 1, Race 2, Race 3, Race 4 and Race 5. See Editing Guidelines below for further instructions.
2. If a person's race is a combination of white and any other race(s), code to the appropriate other race(s) first and code white in the next race field.
3. a. If a person's race is a combination of Hawaiian and any other race(s), code Race 1 as 07 Hawaiian and code the other races in Race 2, Race 3, Race 4, and Race 5 as appropriate.
Example Patient is described as Japanese and Hawaiian. *Code Race 1 as 07 Hawaiian, Race 2 as 05 Japanese, and Race 3 through Race 5 as 88.*

b. If the person is not Hawaiian, code Race 1 to the first stated non-white race (02 - 98).
Examples Patient is stated to be Vietnamese and Black. *Code Race 1 as 10 Vietnamese, Race 2 as 02 Black, and Race 3 through Race 5 as 88.*

Note: in the following scenarios, only the race code referred to in the example is coded. For cases diagnosed after January 1, 2000, all race fields must be coded.

4. The fields Place of Birth, Race, Marital Status, Name, Maiden Name, and Hispanic Origin are inter-related. Use the following guidelines in order:
 - a. Code the patient's stated race, if possible. Refer to Appendix "Race and Nationality Descriptions from the 2000 Census and Bureau of Vital Statistics" for guidance.
Examples Patient is stated to be Japanese. *Code as 05 Japanese.*
Patient is stated to be German-Irish. *Code as 01 White.*
Patient is described as Arabian. *Code as 01 White.*

Exception When the race is recorded as Oriental, Mongolian, or Asian (codable to 96 Other Asian) and the place of birth is recorded as China, Japan, the Philippines, or another Asian nation, code the race based on birthplace information.
Example The person's race is recorded as Asian and the place of birth is recorded as Japan. *Code race as 05 Japanese* because it is more specific than 96 Asian, NOS.
The person describes himself as an Asian-American born in Laos. *Code race as 11 Laotian* because it is more specific than 96 Asian, NOS.

- b. If the patient's race is determined on the basis of the races of relatives, there is no priority to coding race, other than to list the non-white race(s) first.
Example The patient is described as Asian-American with Korean parents. *Code race as 08 Korean* because it is more specific than 96 Asian[-American].
- c. If no race is stated in the medical record, or if the stated race cannot be coded, review the documentation for a statement of a race category.
Examples Patient described as a black female. *Code as 02 Black.*
 Patient describes herself as multi-racial (nothing more specific) and nursing notes say "African-American." *Code as 02 Black.*
 Patient states she has a Polynesian mother and Tahitian father. *Code Race 1 as 25 Polynesian, Race 2 as 26 Tahitian and Race 3 through Race 5 as 88.*
- d. If race is unknown or not stated in the medical record and birth place is recorded, in some cases race may be inferred from the nationality. Refer to Appendix "Race and Nationality Descriptions from the 2000 Census and Bureau of Vital Statistics" to identify nationalities from which race codes may be inferred.
Examples Record states: "this native of Portugal..." *Code race as 01 White* per the Appendix.
 Record states: "this patient was Nigerian..." *Code race as 02 Black* per the Appendix.
Exception If the patient's name is incongruous with the inferred race, code Race 1 through Race 5 as 99, Unknown.
Examples Patient's name is Siddhartha Rao and birthplace is listed as England. *Code Race 1 through Race 5 as 99 Unknown.*
 Patient's name is Ping Chen and birthplace is Ethiopia. *Code Race 1 through Race 5 as 99 Unknown.*
- e. Use of patient name in determining race
- i. Do not code race from name alone, especially for females with no maiden name given.
 - ii. In general, a name may be an indicator of a racial group, but should not be taken as the only indicator of race.
 - iii. A patient name may be used to identify a more specific race code.
Examples Race reported as Asian, name is Hatsu Mashimoto. *Code race as 05 Japanese.*
 Birthplace is reported as Guatemala and name is Jose Chuicol [name is on a Mayan name list]. *Code race as 03 Native American.*
 - iv. A patient name may be used to infer Spanish ethnicity or place of birth, but a Spanish name alone (without a statement about race or place of birth) cannot be used to determine the race code. Refer to ethnicity guidelines for further information.
Example Alice Gomez is a native of Indiana (implied birthplace: United States). *Code Race 1 through Race 5 as 99 Unknown, because we know nothing about her race.*
5. Persons of Spanish or Hispanic origin may be of any race, although persons of Mexican, Central American, South American, Puerto Rican, or Cuban origin are usually white. Do NOT code a patient stated to be Hispanic or Latino as 98 Other Race in Race 1 and 88 in Race 2 through Race 5.
Example: Miss Sabrina Fitzsimmons is a native of Brazil. *Code race as 01 White per Appendix.*
Note: Race and ethnicity are coded independently.
6. When the race is recorded as Negro or African-American, code race as 02.
7. Code 03 should be used for any person stated to be Native American or [western hemisphere] Indian, whether from North, Central, South, or Latin America. For Central, South, or Latin American Indians, see additional ethnicity coding guidelines under Spanish Surname or Origin.

8. Death certificate information may be used to supplement antemortem race information only when race is coded unknown in the patient record or when the death certificate information is more specific.
- Examples:* In the cancer record Race 1 through Race 5 are coded as 99 Unknown. The death certificate states race as black. *Change cancer record for Race 1 to 02 Black and Race 2 through Race 5 to 88.*
- Race 1 is coded in the cancer record as 96 Asian. Death certificate gives birthplace as China. *Change Race 1 in the cancer record to 04 Chinese and code Race 2 through Race 5 as 88.*

EDITING GUIDELINES

- A. All tumors for the same patient should have the same race code(s).

Cases diagnosed prior to January 1, 2000:

- B. For cases diagnosed prior to January 1, 2000, Race 2 through Race 5 must be blank **unless** the patient has more than one primary and at least one primary is diagnosed on or after January 1, 2000. In this case, the race codes for all primaries must be the same as the one for the primary diagnosed on or after January 1, 2000.

Cases diagnosed on or after January 1, 2000:

- C. If only one race is reported for the person, use code 88 for the remaining race fields (Race 2 - Race 5).
- D. If the patient is multiracial, code all races using items Race 1 through Race 5.
- E. If any race code is 99 Unknown, then all race codes must be 99 Unknown. If Race 1 is 01-98, Race 2 through Race 5 cannot be 99.
- F. If more than Race 1 is coded, and if any Race 2 through Race 5 is 88, then all subsequent race codes must be 88.
- G. A unique race code (other than 88, 99 or blank {for diagnoses prior to 01/01/2000}) can be coded only once in Race 1 through Race 5. For example, do not code 01 White in Race 1 for one parent and 01 White in Race 2 for the other parent.
- H. Document the specified race in a remarks field when any of the race fields are coded as 96 Other Asian, 97 Pacific Islander, NOS or 98 Other Race and a more specific race is given that is not included in the list of race codes. If there is no information on race in the medical record, document that there is no race information in a remarks field. If the information in the medical record is not consistent (for example, if the patient is identified as black in nursing notes and white in a dictated physical exam), document why the coded race was chosen.
- Note:* Do not code 96 Asian in a subsequent race field if a specific Asian race(s) has already been coded.
- Examples* Patient is described as Asian in a consult note and as second generation Korean American in the history. *Code Race 1 as 08 Korean and Race 2 through Race 5 as 88.*
- Patient is described as having one Thai parent and one Malaysian parent. *Code Race 1 as 14 Thai, Race 2 as 96 Other Asian (where Malaysian is coded), and Race 3 through Race 5 as 88.*

HISTORY

- Race 1 is the field used to compare with race data on cases diagnosed prior to January 1, 2000.
- For cases diagnosed prior to January 1, 2000, Race 2 through Race 5 must be blank **unless** the patient has more than one primary with at least one primary diagnosed on or after January 1, 2000. In this case, the race codes for all primaries must be the same as the one for the primary diagnosed on or after January 1, 2000.
- Codes 08 - 13 became effective with diagnoses on or after January 1, 1988.
- Code 14 became effective with diagnoses on or after January 1, 1994.
- Codes 20 - 97 became effective with diagnoses on or after January 1, 1991. SEER participants in San Francisco, San Jose-Monterey, and Los Angeles are permitted to use codes 14 and 20 - 97 for cases diagnosed after January 1, 1987. Other SEER participants may choose to recode cases diagnosed prior to 1991 using 14 and 20-97 if all cases in the following race codes are reviewed: 96 Other Asian; 97 Pacific Islander, NOS; 98 Other; and 99 Unknown.