

## **Expecting Success: Excellence in Cardiac Care** **Explanation of Patient Race, Ethnicity and Primary Language Categories**

### **Background**

The hospitals that participated in the Expecting Success collaborative to improve health care quality for minority patients used the race and ethnicity categories provided by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and a limited number of language categories from the U.S. Census Bureau. Additional categories were added to the OMB and Census Bureau options to account for patients that were unable to provide race, ethnicity and language data or that declined to respond. Hospitals had the opportunity to expand the race, ethnicity and language categories to capture more granular information about their patients.

#### *Race*

The Expecting Success hospitals utilized the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) classifications for race, plus several additional categories. The OMB race categories are: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN), Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (NHPI). Additionally, Expecting Success used the categories of Multiracial, Declined and Unavailable. These terms are defined below.

#### *Ethnicity*

Expecting Success hospitals utilized the OMB classifications for ethnicity, plus several additional categories. The OMB has two classifications of ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino, or Not Hispanic or Latino. Hospitals had the opportunity to develop and track more granular sub-categories based on their organizations' population and needs. Additionally, Expecting Success used the categories of Declined and Unavailable. These terms are defined below.

#### *Primary Language*

For collecting patient language information, throughout the data collection process the Expecting Success hospitals used the term 'primary language.' This term refers to the language that a person usually or regularly uses. It is most likely the language that a person learns first and the language in which a person is fluent. It is the language that a person is most conversant in and, if non-English speaking, the language for which he/she would need an interpreter.

Expecting Success utilized the primary language categories of English, Spanish, Other, Declined and Unavailable. These terms are defined below. Once again, hospitals had the opportunity to develop and track more granular language sub-categories based on their populations and roll these up to the categories listed above for reporting purposes or comparison between organizations.

### **Definitions**

#### *Race*

American Indian or Alaska Native. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.

Asian. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent, including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Black or African American. A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa includes terms such as “Haitian” or “Negro.”

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

White. A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

Multiracial. A person having more than one or a combination of the above origins.

Declined. A person who is unwilling to choose/provide a race category or cannot identify him/herself with one of the listed races.

Unavailable. Select this category if the patient is unable to physically respond, there is no available family member or caregiver to respond for the patient, or if for any reason, the demographic portion of the medical record cannot be completed. Hospital systems may call this field “Unknown,” “Unable to Complete,” or “Other.”

### *Ethnicity*

Hispanic or Latino. A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.

Not-Hispanic or Latino. Patient is not of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

Declined. A person who is unwilling to provide an answer to the ethnicity question or cannot identify him/herself as Hispanic or Not-Hispanic.

Unavailable. Select this category if the patient is unable to physically respond, there is no available family member or caregiver to respond for the patient, or if for any reason, the demographic portion of the medical record cannot be completed. Hospital systems may call this field “Unknown,” “Unable to Complete,” or “Other.”

### *Primary Language*

English. English is the language the person usually/regularly uses and the language in which he/she is most conversant.

Spanish. Spanish is the language the person usually/regularly uses and the language in which he/she is most conversant.

Other. Any stated language other than English or Spanish.

Declined. A person who is unwilling to state a language preference.

Unavailable. Select this category if the patient is unable to physically respond, there is no family member or caregiver to respond for the patient, or if for any reason, language cannot be obtained. Hospital systems may call this field “Unknown” or “Unable to Complete.”