

Questions about the Collection of Patient Race and Ethnicity Information

Why are these questions being asked?

We are now collecting race and ethnicity information from all of our patients to help us know them better. We can better meet the needs of the communities that we serve if we know more about our patients, their culture and their language. This information will only be used to make sure that all patients are receiving appropriate care of the best quality.

Why am I being asked these questions?

We are collecting this information from all patients. This will help us to see differences in health among different populations. We can reduce those differences by making sure that all patients receive the same quality of care.

Are these questions being asked at other hospitals?

There are new state regulations requiring all hospitals in Massachusetts to collect this information. We are collecting this information as part of a statewide effort to improve the health of all.

How are my race and ethnicity related to my health?

Studies have shown that there are differences in health among racial and ethnic groups. We don't know what causes these differences and we need to learn more about them. We can work to eliminate these differences by making sure that all people receive the same quality of care.

How will this information be used?

We will use the race and ethnicity information that we collect from all patients to see if there are any differences in health among different groups of people. This will help us make sure that we give the same quality of care to all people. We will also use this information to understand the needs of the population we serve and to make sure that people have care that is culturally appropriate.

Our goal is to meet the needs of all of the patients that we serve.

We can meet this goal by providing interpreter services, offering patient information translated into different languages, and making sure that our staff provide culturally appropriate care.

What if I don't want to share this information?

It is your decision if you want to share this information. This information is only being collected to help us know the patients that we serve better and it will not affect the care or services that you receive.