



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

DATE: February 6, 2023

QIP Policy Letter 23-001

TO: ALL QIP ENTITIES

SUBJECT: PY5 and PY6 RACE AND ETHNICITY STRATIFICATION

PURPOSE:

This QIP Policy Letter (QPL) informs QIP entities of the race and ethnicity stratification requirements for:

1. Measures with informational race and ethnicity stratification.
2. Measures with multiple P4P race and ethnicity rates, i.e., Q-HBD
3. Measures with a single P4P race or ethnicity rate, i.e., Q-IHE1, and Q-IHE2

BACKGROUND:

In the PY4 Reporting Manual, for all race and ethnicity stratifications in QIP, entities were instructed to use a method that matrixed race by ethnicity, included nationally recognized race categories as well as detailed Asian and Pacific Island races, but did not include a multi-racial category. To align with other state (i.e., DMHC) and national (i.e., HEDIS) approaches to race and ethnicity stratification, QIP requires reporting both race and ethnicity separately as defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity.^{1,2,3} The reporting of detailed Level 2 Asian and Pacific Island races will not be included, however, DHCS reserves the right to ask for this granular data at any time as it remains mandated for collection by State Government Code 8310.5.

POLICY

1. Measures with informational race and ethnicity stratification in PY 5 and 6

1. Q-WCV: Child and Adolescent Well-Care Visits

¹ Office of Management and Budget Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1997-10-30/pdf/97-28653.pdf>

² 2020 Census Questions: Race. <https://2020census.gov/en/about-questions/2020-census-questions-race.html>

³ 2020 Census Questions: Hispanic Origin. <https://2020census.gov/en/about-questions/hispanic-origin.html>

2. Q-CIS: Childhood Immunization Status
3. Q-IMA: Immunizations for Adolescents
4. Q-PPC-Pre: Prenatal and Postpartum Care: Timeliness of Prenatal Care
5. Q-PPC-Pst: Prenatal and Postpartum Care: Postpartum Care
6. Q-BCS-E: Breast Cancer Screening
7. Q-CMS130: Colorectal Cancer Screening
8. Q-CBP: Controlling High Blood Pressure
9. Q-CMS147: Preventive Care and Screening: Influenza Immunization
10. Q-CMS2: Preventive Care and Screening: Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan

In PY5, entities are required to report informational stratification on measures 1-5. In PY6, entities are required to report informational stratification on measures 1-10. Entities must stratify reported data separately by race and ethnicity. If a combined race/ethnicity category question is used to collect data, data must be disaggregated, and race and ethnicity categories must be reported separately.

Reporting Format for Informational Race and Ethnicity Stratification

In the QIP Reporting Applications, entities will enter stratification data in tables formatted as follows.

Legend for Table 1: Race and Table 2: Ethnicity

- “a” = Achievement Rate is auto calculated by the QIP Reporting Application
- * = must match the aggregate numerator/denominator/rate reported for the measure

Table 1: Race

	Numerator	Denominator	Achievement Rate
American Indian or Alaska Native			a
Asian			a
Black or African American			a
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander			a
White			a
Two or More Races^C			a
Other/Declined/Unknown^A			a
TOTAL	a*	a*	a*

^A “Other”, “Declined”, and “Unknown” are considered distinct and separate categories when collecting race stratification data but are combined for reporting. This category is defined as people whose race information has been collected but does not fit into any of the other six race categories, people who are asked to identify race but declined to provide a response, or people for whom the entity did not obtain race information nor receive a declined response (i.e., “Asked but No Answer”).

^C “Two or More Races” are people with any combination of races, including “Some Other Race.”

Table 2: Ethnicity

	Numerator	Denominator	Achievement Rate
Hispanic or Latino			a
Not Hispanic or Latino			a
Declined/Unknown^B			a
TOTAL	a*	a*	a*

^B “Declined” and “Unknown” are considered distinct and separate categories when collecting ethnicity stratification data, but are combined for reporting. This category is defined as people who are asked to identify ethnicity but declined to provide a response, or people for whom the entity did not obtain ethnicity information nor receive a declined response (i.e., “Asked but No Answer”).

For collected data that does not conform to categories as outlined in Tables 1 and 2, please refer to crosswalk tables in **Appendix 1** for additional guidance.

Race and Ethnicity Data from MCPs

If data reported by an MCP conflicts with the QIP entity’s EHR regarding the race(s) and ethnicity of an individual, the QIP entity should use the most recent information for counting that individual. If an entity cannot determine which information is the most recent, then the QIP entity should use its own EHR data.

Sampling

For measures collected using the Hybrid Method with the race and ethnicity stratification, follow the guidelines for sampling outlined in the Reporting Manual under General Guidelines Section XIII. Sampling. The race and ethnicity stratifications are applied to the eligible population and denominator after hybrid sampling.

2. Measures with multiple P4P race and ethnicity rates, i.e., Q-HBD

For **Q-HBD: Hemoglobin A1c Control for Patients With Diabetes**, the achievement value will be based equally on performance on three accountable rates as outlined below:

- 1) The Total Population
- 2) The Hispanic/Latino ethnicity sub-rate from Table 2
- 3) The Black/African American sub-rate, which will include individuals from both the Black/African American rate from Table 1 as well as those with “Two or More Races” identifying, in part, as Black or African American. For this reason, entities should be aware the informational stratification of Black or

African American for HBD may not match those of the accountable sub-rate as the latter will include multi-racial individuals.

- If either the Black/African American or Hispanic/Latino sub-rate has a denominator of < 30, the Achievement Value for Q-HBD will be based on the Total Population rate and the population sub rate with the denominator ≥ 30 .
- If both the Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino sub-rates have a denominator < 30, the Achievement Value for Q-HBD will be based on the Total Population rate alone, contingent upon the requirement that the entity also reports on Q-IHE2. For DPHs only, a DPH must select a Priority Measure as the Eligible Equity Measure. For DMPHs only, they may choose any Eligible Equity Measure. Both DPHs and DMPHs may select the Priority Population.
- Q-HBD also requires informational reporting of race and ethnicity stratification as specified in Table 1: Race and Table 2: Ethnicity above.

3. Measures with a single P4P race or ethnicity rate, i.e., Q-IHE1, and Q-IHE2
For **Q-IHE1: Improving Health Equity 1** and/or **Q-IHE2: Improving Health Equity 2**, entities are only required to report the numerator and denominator for the priority population selected for their selected eligible equity measure. Multi-racial individuals identifying, in part, with the race/ethnicity category of the priority population should be counted in reporting of the equity measure (e.g., an entity engaging with the Asian priority population for a Q-IHE eligible equity measure should count in the measure denominator and (If applicable) numerator those multi-racial individuals who identify, in part, as Asian). Entities do not have to report any other race/ethnicity strata for these two measures.

For reporting Q-IHE1 or Q-IHE2 based on **Q-PC02: Cesarean Birth** and **Q-PC05: Exclusive Breast Milk Feeding**, entities should use the data for their selected Priority Population that is posted in the CMQCC Maternal Data Center under “Comparisons: By Race/Ethnicity” in the left navigation bar under the QIP measure selected for reporting by the entity (refer to “Step 5” in [Using CMQCC's Maternal Data Center \(MDC\) for the DHCS Quality Incentive Pool \(QIP\) Inpatient Perinatal Measures](#)). The numerators and denominators for each race/ethnicity are listed directly below the bar graphs. Please note that CMQCC stratifies Hispanic-US Born and Hispanic Foreign Born as separate strata but that these numerators and denominators should be combined when reporting a Hispanic/Latino sub-rate. Entities should also note the MDC combines Asian and Pacific Islander in one category, which should crosswalk to Asian race per Table RES-A-1/2/3 in Appendix 1, and lacks a category for American Indian/Alaska Native.

Please contact your QIP Liaison or email the QIP Mailbox at qip@dhcs.ca.gov if there are any questions concerning this QPL.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY PALAV BABARIA

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Appendix 1 – Additional Guidance to Crosswalk Existing Race Ethnicity Categories to QIP PY 5 and 6 requirements

Table RES-A-1/2/3: CMS Categories Crosswalked to HEDIS/QIP/OMB Race and Ethnicity

CMS Category	HEDIS/QIP/OMB Race	HEDIS/QIP/OMB Ethnicity
White	White	Unknown*
Black	Black	Unknown*
American Indian/Alaska Native	American Indian or Alaska Native	Unknown*
Asian/Pacific Islander	Asian	Unknown*
Hispanic	Unknown*	Hispanic or Latino
Other	Some Other Race*	Unknown*
Unknown	Unknown*	Unknown*
(No equivalent category)	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Unknown*
(No equivalent category)	Two or more races	Unknown*

*Note – While OMB uses separate categories for “Unknown” and “Some Other Race,” these are combined into one category for QIP reporting.

Table RES-B-1/2/3: Combined Categories Crosswalked to HEDIS/QIP/OMB Race and Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity Combined Category	HEDIS/QIP/OMB Race	HEDIS/QIP/OMB Ethnicity
White	White	Not Hispanic or Latino
Black	Black	Not Hispanic or Latino
American Indian/Alaska Native	American Indian or Alaska Native	Not Hispanic or Latino
Asian	Asian	Not Hispanic or Latino
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Not Hispanic or Latino
Hispanic/Latino/White	White	Hispanic or Latino
Hispanic/Latino/Black	Black	Hispanic or Latino
Other	Some Other Race*	Unknown*
Multiple races marked	Two or more races	Unknown*
Unknown	Unknown*	Unknown*

*Note – While OMB uses separate categories for “Unknown” and “Some Other Race,” these are combined into one category for QIP reporting.

Table RES-C-1/2/3: HEDIS/OMB Race Crosswalked for Use With CDCREC Category Codes and Value Sets

HEDIS/OMB Race	CDCREC OMB Category Direct Reference Code	CDCREC Detailed Category: Value Set
White	2106-3	<u>White Detailed Race Value Set</u>
Black	2054-5	<u>Black or African American Detailed Race Value Set</u>
American Indian or Alave	1002-5	<u>American Indian or Alaska Native Detailed Race Value Set</u>
Asian	2028-9	<u>Asian Detailed Race Value Set</u>
Native Hawaiian or Otheracific Islander	2076-8	<u>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Detailed Race Value Set</u>
Some Other Race	OTH*	NA
Two or more races	NA**	NA
Asked but No Answer	ASKU*	NA
Unknown	UNK*	NA

*HL7 v3 Code System NullFlavor.

**This value is defined by the measure calculation logic as the presence of two or more distinct CDCREC category codes and does not map to a specific direct reference code or value set.

Table RES-D-1/2/3: HEDIS/OMB Ethnicity Crosswalked for Use With CDCREC Category Codes and Value Sets

HEDIS/OMB Race	CDCREC OMB Category Direct Reference Code	CDCREC Detailed Category: Value Set
Hispanic or Latino	2135-2	<u>Hispanic or Latino Detailed Ethnicity</u>
Not Hispanic or Latino	2186-5	NA
Asked but No Answer	ASKU*	NA
Unknown	UNK*	NA

* The NullFlavor concepts 'Asked but no answer' and 'Unknown' are not included in the terminology binding for the US Core Ethnicity FHIR extension on which this digital logic is structured. QIP allows these concepts to express ethnicity data to align with bound values for the US Core Race extension.