Race Coding Instructions  
Adopted from SEER Coding and Staging Manual 2004

1. Code 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.

2. If a person’s race is a combination of white and any other race(s), code the appropriate other race(s) first and code white in the next race field.

3. 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.

4. If the person is not Hawaiian, code Race 1 to the first stated non-white race (02-98).

   **Example:** 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.

5. The fields Place of Birth, Race, Marital Status, Name, Maiden Name, and Hispanic Origin are inter-related. Use the following guidelines in priority 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.

      **Example 1:** Patient is stated to be Japanese. Code as 05 Japanese.

      **Example 2:** Patient is stated to be German-Irish. Code as 01 White.

      **Example 3:** Patient is described as Arabian. Code as 01 White.
Exception: When the race is recorded as Oriental, Mongolian, or Asian (coded 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 4: 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.

Example 5: 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.

6. 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].

7. 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.

Example 1: Patient described as a black female. Code as 02 Black.

Example 2: Patient describes herself as multi-racial (nothing more specific) and nursing notes say “African-American.” Code as 02 Black.

Example 3: 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.

8. 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 the Appendix entitled “Race and Nationality Descriptions from the 2000 Census and Bureau of Vital Statistics” to identify nationalities from which race codes may be inferred.

Example 1: Record states: “this native of Portugal...” Code race as 01 White per the Appendix.

Example 2: Record states: “this patient was Nigerian...” Code race as 02 Black per the Appendix.

Exception: If the patient’s name is incongruous with the race inferred on the basis of nationality, code Race 1 through Race 5 as 99, Unknown.

Example 1: Patient’s name is Siddhartha Rao and birthplace is listed as England. Code Race 1 through Race 5 as 99 Unknown.

Example 2: Patient’s name is Ping Chen and birthplace is Ethiopia. Code Race 1 through Race 5 as 99 Unknown.

9. Use of patient name in determining race:
   a. Do not code race from name alone, especially for females with no maiden name given.
   b. In general, a name may be an indicator of a racial group, but should not be taken as the only indicator of race.
c. A patient name may be used to identify a more specific race code.

*Example 1:* Race reported as Asian, name is Hatsu Mashimoto. Code race as 05 Japanese.

*Example 2:* Birthplace is reported as Guatemala and name is Jose Chuicol [name is identified as Mayan]. Code race as 03 Native American

d. 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 nothing is known about her race...

10. 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:* Sabrina Fitzsimmons is a native of Brazil. Code race as 01 White per Appendix.

11. When the race is recorded as Negro or African-American, code race as 02 Black.

12. 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.

13. Death certificate information may be used to supplement ante mortem race information only when race is coded unknown in the patient record or when the death certificate information is more specific.

*Example 1:* 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.

*Example 2:* 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.
RACE AND NATIONALITY DESCRIPTIONS
FROM THE 2000 CENSUS AND BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
Note: Use these lists only when race is not stated but other information is provided in the medical record.

References:

Key
† Use this code unless patient is stated to be Native American (Indian)
* Terms listed in reference 2, above.
‡ Description of religious affiliation rather than stated nationality or ethnicity; should be used with caution when determining appropriate race code.

CODE 01 WHITE
Afghan, Afghanistani
Afrikaner
Albanian
Algerian*
Amish*
Anglo-Saxon*
Arab, Arabian
Argentinian*†
Armenian
Assyrian
Australian*
Austrian*
Azores*
Basque*
Bavarian*
Bolivian*†
Bozniak/Bosnian
Brava/Bravo*
Brazilian†
Bulgarian
Cajun
Californio
Canadian*
Caucasian*
Central American†
Chechhyan
Chicano*
Chilean†
Colombian*†
Costa Rican*†
Creole*
Croat/Croatian
Crucian*
Cuban (unless specified as Black)*
Cypriot
Czechoslovakian*
Eastern European
Ebian*
Ecuadorian*†
Egyptian
English
English-French*
English-Irish*
European*
Finnish*
French
French Canadian*
Georgian*
German
Greek*
Guatemalan†
Gypsy*
Hebrew*‡
Herzegovenian
Hispanic*
Honduran†
Hungarian*
Iranian, Iran
Iraqi
Irish
Islamic*‡
Israeli
Italian
Jordanian*
Kurd/Kurdish
Kuwaitian*
Ladina/Ladino*
Latin American*†
Latino
Latvian*
Lebanese
Libyan*
Lithuanian*
Maltese*
Marshenese*
Mauritanian*
Moroccan*
Mediterranean*
Mexican†
Middle Eastern
Moroccan*
Moslem*‡
Muslim*
Near Easterner
Nicaraguan†
Nordic*
North African
Norwegian*
Other Arab
Palestinian
Panamanian†
Paraguayan†
Parsi*
Persian*
Peruvian*†
Polish
Portuguese*
Puerto Rican (unless specified as Black)
Romanian*
Rumanian
Russian*
Salvadoran†
Saudi Arabian*
Scandanavian*
Scottish, Scotch
Semitic*‡
Serbian*
Servian*
Shi’ite‡
Sicilian*
Slavic, Slovakian*
South American†
Spanish*, Spaniard
Sunni*‡
Swedish*
Syrian
Turkish, Turk*
Ukranian*
United Arab Emirati
Uruguayan†
Venezuelan*†
Welsh*
White
Yemenite*
Yugoslavian*
Zoroastrian*

CODE 02 BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN
African
African American
Afro-American
Bahamian
Barbadian
Bilalian*
Black
Botswana
Cape Verdean*
Dominica Islander (unless specified as White)
Dominican/Dominican Republic (unless specified as White)
Eritrean*
Ethiopian
Ghanian*
Haitian
Hamitic*
Jamaican
Kenyan*
Liberian
Malawian*
Mugandian*
Namibian
Nassau*
Negro
Nigerian
Nigritic
Nubian*
Other African
Santo Domingo*
Seychelloise*
Sudanese*
Tanzanian*
Tobagoan
Togolese*
Trinidadian
West Indian
Zairean

CODE 03 AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE
(see separate list of tribes)
Alaska Native
Aleut
American Indian
Central American Indian
Eskimo
Meso American Indian
Mexican American Indian
South American Indian
Spanish American Indian
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<th>Definition</th>
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## NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER CODES

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### 98 OTHER RACE, NOT ELSEWHERE CLASSIFIED

*Do not use this code for Hispanic, Latino or Spanish, NOS.*
OTHER RACE DESCRIPTIONS
Note 1: The following descriptions of ethnic origin cannot be coded to a specific race code. Look for other descriptions of race in the medical record. If no further information is available, code as 99 Unknown.

Aruba Islander
Azerbaijani
Belizean
Bermudan
Cayenne
Cayman Islander
Guyanese
Indian (not specified as Native American,
   Eastern Indian, Northern, Central, or South
   American Indian)
Mestizo
Morena
South African
Surinam
Tejano

Note 2: The following terms self-reported in the 2000 Census cannot be coded to a specific race code. Look for other descriptions of race in the medical record. If no further information is available, code as 99 Unknown.

Biracial
Interracial
Mixed
Multiethnic
Multinational
Multiracial

Indian Tribes of the United States, Canada and Mexico (Race Code 03)

Abnaki
Absentee-Shawnee
Acoma
Ak Chin
Alabama-Coushatt Tribes of Texas
Alsea
Apache
Arapaho
Arikara
Assiniboine
Atacapa
Athapaskan
Atsina
Aztec
Bear River
Beaver
Bella Coola
Beothuk
Blackfoot
Boold Piegan
Blue Lake
Brotherton
Caddo
Cakchiquel-lenca
Calapooya
Carrier
Catawba
Cattaraugus
Cayuga
Cayuse
Chasta Costa
Chehalis
Chemehuevi
Cherokee
Chetco
Cheyenne
Cheyenne River Sioux
Chickahominy
Chickasaw
Chinook
Chipewyan
Chippewa
Chippewa-Ojibwa
Chiricahua Apache
Chitimacha
Choctaw
Chol
Chontal
Chorti
Chuckchansi
Chumash
Clallam
Clatsop
Clackamus
Clear Lake
Coast Salish
Cochimi
Cochiti
Cocopa
Coeur D'Alene Tribe of Idaho
Cocopah
Columbia
Colville
Comox
Comanche
Concow
Conquille
Coushatta
Covelo
Cow Creek
Cowichan
Cowlitz
Coyotero Apache
Cree
Creek
Crow
Crow Creek Sioux
Dakota
Delaware
Diegueno
Digger
Dog Rib
Duckwater
Eskimo
Euchi
Eyak
Flathead
Fort Hall Res. Tribe of Idaho
French Indian
Gabrieleno
Galice Creek
Gay Head
Gosiute
Gros Ventre
Haida
Han
Hare
Hat Creek
Hawasupai
Hidatsa
Hoh
Hoopa
Hopi
Houma
Hualapai
Huastec
Humboldt Bay
Hupa
Huron
Illinois
Ingaliik
Iowa
Iroquois
Isleta
Jemez
Joshua
Juaneneno
Jicarilla Apache
Kaibah
Kalispel
Kanosh Band of Paiutes
Kansa
Karankawa
Karok
Kaska
Kaw
Kawai
Keresan Pueblos
Kern River
Kichai
Kickapoo
Kiowa
Kiowa Apache
Kitamat
Klamath
Klikitat
Koasati
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
Kusa
Kutchin
Kutenai
Kwakiutl
Lac Courte Dreille
Laguna
Lakmuit
Lipan Apache
Lower Brule Sioux
Luiseno
Lummi
Maidu
Makah
Malecite
Mandan
Maricopa
Mary's River
Mashpee
Mattaponi
Maya
Mayo
Mdewakanton Sioux
Menominee
Menomini
Mequendodon
Mescalero Apache
Miami
Micmac
Mission Indians
Missouri
Miwok
Mixe
Mixtec
Modoc
Mohave
Mohawk
Mohegan
Molala
Monachi
Mono
Montagnais
Montauk
Muckleshoot
Munsee
Nambe
Namsemond
Nanticoke
Narragansett
Naskapi
Natchez
Navaho
Navajo
Nez Perce
Niantic
Nipmuck
Nisenan-Patwin
Nisqually
Nomelaki
Nooksak
Nootka
Northern Paiute
Oglala Sioux
Okanogan
Omaha
Oneida
Onondaga
Opata
Opato
Osage
Oto
Otoe
Otomi
Ottawa
Ozette
Paiute
Pamunkey
Panamint
Papago
Passamaquoddy
Patwin
Pawnee
Pen d'Oreille
Penobscot
Peoria
Pequot
Picuris
Pima
Pit River
Pojoaque
Pomo
Ponca
Poosepatuck
Potawatomi
Potomac
Powhatan
Pueblos
Puyallup
Quapaw
Quechan
Quileute
Quinaielt
Quinault
Rappahannock
Rogue River
Rosebud Sioux
Sac and Fox
Saginaw
Salish
Sandia
San Felipe
San Ildefonso
San Juan
San Lorenzo
San Luis Obispo
San Luiseno
Sanpoil
Sanpoil Nespelem
Sant'ana
Santa Barbara
Santa Clara
Santa Ynez
Santee
Santee Sioux
Santiam
Sauk and Fox
Scaticook
Sekane
Seminole
Seneca
Seri
Shasta
Shawnee
Shinnecock
Shivwits Band of Paiutes
Shoshone
Shoshone-Bannock
Shuswap
Siouans
Sioux
Sisseton
Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux
Siouan
Skagit Suiaattle
Skokomish
Slave
Smith River
Snake
Snohomish
Snoqualmi
Songish Southern Paiute
Squaxin
Stockbridge
Sumo-Mosquito
Suquamish
Swinomish
Taimskin
Tanana
Tanoan Pueblos
Taos
Tarahumare
Tarascan
Tawakoni
Tejon
Tenino or Warm Springs
Tesoque
Teton
Teton Sioux
Tillamook
Timucua
Thlinget
Tolowa
Tonawanda
Tonkawa
Tonto Apache
Topinish
Totonac
Tsimshian
Tulalip
Tule River Indians
Tunica
Tuscarora
Tututni
Umatilla
Umpqua
Upper Chinook
Ute
Waca
Waicuri-Pericue
Wailaki
Walapai
Walla Walla
Wampanoag
Wapato
Warm Springs
Wasco
Washo
Washoe
Western Apache
Western Shoshone
Whilkut
Wichita
Wikchamni
Wind River Shoshone
Winnebago
Wintu
Wintun
Wishram
Wyandotte
Xicaque
Yahooskin
Yakima
Yamel
Yana
Yankton
Yanktonnais Sioux
Yaqui
Yaquina
Yavapai
Yawilmani
Yellow Knife
Yerington Paiute
Yokuts
Yokuts-Mono
Yomba Shoshone
Yuchi
Yuki
Yuma
Yurok
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Zapotec
Zia
Zoque
Zuni
RACE AND NATIONALITY DESCRIPTIONS
ALPHABETIC INDEX

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96 Bornean
02 Botswana
01 Bozniak/Bosnian
01 Brava/Bravo*
01 Brazilian
03 Brotherton
96 Bruneian
01 Bulgarian
96 Burmese

C
03 Caddo
01 Cajun
03 Cakchiquel -lenca
03 Calapooya
01 Californio
13 Cambodian
01 Canadian*
02 Cape Verdean*
20 Carolinian
03 Carrier
03 Catawba
03 Cattaraugus
01 Caucasian*
03 Cayuga
03 Cayuse
96 Celebesian
01 Central American†
03 Central American
Indian
96 Ceram
96 Ceylonese
21 Chamorro
03 Chasta Costa
01 Chechnyan
03 Chehalis
03 Chemehuevi
03 Cherokee
03 Chetco
03 Cheyenne
03 Cheyenne River Sioux

01 Chicano*
03 Chickahomininy
03 Chickasaw
01 Chilean†
04 Chinese
03 Chinook
03 Chipewyan
03 Chippewa
03 Chippewa-Ojibwa
03 Chiricahua Apache
03 Chitimacha
03 Choctaw
03 Chol
03 Chontal
03 Chorti
03 Chuckchansi
03 Chumash
20 Chuukese
03 Clackamus
03 Clallam
03 Clatsop
03 Clear Lake
03 Coast Salish
03 Cochimi
03 Cochiti
03 Cocopa
03 Cocopah
03 Coeur D'Alene Tribe of Idaho
01 Colombian*†
03 Columbia
03 Colville
03 Comanche
03 Comox
03 Concow
03 Conquille
25 Cook Islander
01 Costa Rican*†
03 Couchata
03 Covelo
03 Cow Creek
03 Cowichan
03 Cowlitz
03 Coyotero Apache
03 Cree
03 Creek
01 Creole*
01 Croat/Croatian
03 Crow
03 Crow Creek Sioux
01 Crucian*
01 Cuban (unless specified as Black)*
01 Cypriot
01 Czechoslovak -ian*

D
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03 Delaware
03 Diegueno
03 Digger
03 Dog Rib
02 Dominica Islander (unless specified as White)
02 Dominican/Dominican Republic (unless specified as White)
03 Duckwater

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01 Ebian*
01 Ecuadorian**†
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01 English
01 English-French*
01 English-Irish*
20 Eniwetok, Enewetak
02 Eritrean*
03 Eskimo
02 Ethiopian
03 Euchi
96 Eurasian
01 European*
03 Eyak

F
31 Fijian
06 Filipino
01 Finnish*
03 Flathead
03 Fort Hall Res. Tribe of Idaho
01 French
01 French Canadian*
03 French Indian
G
03 Gabrieleno
03 Galice Creek
03 Gay Head
01 Georgian*
01 German
02 Ghanian*
03 Gosiute
01 Greek*
03 Gros Ventre
22 Guamanian
01 Guatemalan†
01 Gypsy*

H
03 Haida
02 Haitian
02 Hamitic*
03 Han
03 Hare
03 Hat Creek
07 Hawaiian
03 Hawasupai
01 Hebrew*‡
01 Herzegovenian
03 Hidatsa
01 Hispanic*
12 Hmong
03 Hoh
01 Honduran†
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03 Hopi
03 Houma
03 Hualapai
03 Huastec
03 Humboldt Bay
01 Hungarian*
03 Hupa
03 Huron

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96 Indonesian
03 Ingalik
03 Iowa
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01 Iraqi
01 Irish
03 Iroquois
01 Islamic*‡
03 Isleta
01 Israeli
01 Italian
05 Iwo Jiman

**J**
02 Jamaican
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03 Jemez
03 Jicarilla Apache
01 Jordanian*
03 Joshua
03 Juaneno

**K**
03 Kaibah
03 Kalispel
13 Kampuchean
03 Kanosh Band of
   Paiutes
03 Kansa
03 Karankawa
03 Karok
03 Kaska
03 Kaw
03 Kawai
02 Kenyan*
03 Keresan Pueblos
03 Kern River
03 Kichai
03 Kickapoo
03 Kiowa
03 Kiowa Apache
20 Kirabati
03 Kitamat
03 Klamath
03 Klikitat
03 Koasati
03 Kootenai Tribe of
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08 Korean
20 Kosraean
01 Kurd/Kurdish
03 Kusa
03 Kutchin
03 Kutenai
01 Kuwaitian*
20 Kwajalein
03 Kwakiutl
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| 03   | Naskapi                                   |
| 02   | Nassau*                                   |
| 03   | Natchez                                   |
| 07   | Native Hawaiian                           |
| 97   | Nauruan                                   |
| 03   | Navaho                                    |
| 03   | Navajo                                    |
| 01   | Near Easterner                            |
| 02   | Negro                                     |
| 96   | Nepalese                                  |
| 30   | New Caledonian                            |
| 30   | New Hebrides                               |
| 03   | Nez Perce                                 |
| 03   | Niantic                                   |
| 01   | Nicaraguan†                               |
| 02   | Nigerian                                  |
| 02   | Nigritian                                 |
| 03   | Nipmuck                                   |
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03 Sauk and Fox
01 Scandanavian*
03 Scaticook
01 Scottish, Scotch
03 Sekane
03 Seminole
01 Semitic*‡
03 Seneca
01 Serbian*
03 Seri
01 Servian*
02 Seychelloise*
03 Shasta
03 Shawnee
01 Shi'ite‡
03 Shinnecock
03 Shivwits Band of Paiutes
03 Shoshone
03 Shoshone-Bannock
03 Shuswap
01 Sicilian*
96 Sikkimese
96 Singaporean
03 Siouans
03 Sioux
03 Sisseton
03 Sisseton - Wahpeton
    Sioux
03 Siuslaw
03 Skagit Suiattle
03 Skokomish
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03 Snake
03 Snohomish
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03 Stockbridge
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96 Sumatran
03 Sumo-Mosquito
01 Sunni*‡
03 Suquamish
01 Swedish*
03 Swinomish
01 Syrian

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03 Taimskin
04 Taiwanese
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02 Tanzanian*
03 Taos
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01  Zoroastrian*‡
03  Zuni
Note: The following terms cannot be coded to a specific race code. Look for other descriptions of race in the medical record. If no further information is available, code as 99 Unknown.

Aruba Islander
Azerbaijani
Belizean
Bermudan
Biracial
Cayenne
Cayman Islander
Guyanese
Indian (not specified as
  Native American, Eastern
  Indian, Northern, Central, or
  South American Indian)
Interracial
Mestizo
Mixed
Morena
Multiethnic
Multinational
Multiracial
South African
Surinam
Tejano