



Collecting information about ethnicity

Ethnic monitoring is an important issue for the NHS. Everyone belongs to a group so all our patients are being asked to describe their own ethnic group. This leaflet will answer some of your questions about why we are collecting ethnicity information.

We provide services to a diverse and multi-cultural community and are asking patients their ethnic groups so that we can better meet their cultural, religious and language needs. We do understand however that there might be occasions when patients will not be able to give us ethnic origin information, for example, patients who due to illness are not able to understand or be understood and when a patient is unconscious. In this case, we would ask a carer or a relative for the information. We also record ethnic origin data for babies and the parent and / or guardian will be asked to inform us.

Why do the NHS collect ethnic data?

- Understand the needs of patients from different groups and provide better and more appropriate services. We want everyone, no matter what their ethnic group, religion or culture, to be able to use our services easily.
- Identify patients at risk – some groups are more at risk of specific diseases. Ethnic group data can help staff ensure you access appropriate services. It will help us to understand your individual needs.
- Comply with the law [Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000] which gives public authorities a duty to promote race equality. It is legislative requirement to monitor the ethnic group of ALL patients to identify who might be at a greater risk from conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, stroke, etc. and to ensure that race discrimination is not taking place.

About ethnic group categories

We are asking you to state which ethnic group you feel you belong to, not to state your nationality. For example, many of our patients who have British nationality may be from different ethnic groups such as

Irish, Caribbean or Bangladeshi. It is important to us that you describe your own ethnic group – see list below.

List of ethnic groups:

White

- English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Any other White background

Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background

Asian / Asian British

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background

Black / African / Caribbean / Black British

- African
- Caribbean
- Any other Black / African / Caribbean background

Other ethnic group

- Arab
- Any other ethnic group

This list is designed to allow most people to identify themselves. However, if you feel the categories do not describe your ethnic origin, please let us know and we will enter 'any other group' together with details of how you would describe yourself. Data Protection The information you provide will be treated as part of your confidential medical record and will not be shared with any other person or organisation. The NHS has strict standards regarding data protection and your information will be carefully safeguarded. Once we have told us your ethnic group, we do not need to ask you these questions again. The information regarding ethnic origin will be released only in the form of total numbers and no individual can be identified from the statistics.