

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Collecting Information about Ethnicity

This information is also available in Welsh
Please let us know if you require this information in
another language or an accessible format.

Collecting information about ethnicity

Ethnic monitoring is an important issue for the Health Board. When you attend the hospital you may be asked to provide information about your ethnic group.

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.

Why do we 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 (Equality Act 2010) which gives public authorities a duty to promote equality, including race equality. It is a legislative requirement to monitor the ethnic group of ALL patients to help us identify who might be at a greater risk from conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, stroke, etc and to help ensure that 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

- Arab
- Asian or Asian British – Indian
- Asian or Asian British – Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British – any other Asian background
- Black or Black British – Caribbean
- Black or Black British – African
- Black or Black British – any other Black background
- Chinese
- Mixed – White and Black Caribbean
- Mixed – White and Black African
- Mixed – White and Asian
- Mixed – Any other mixed background
- White – British
- White – Irish
- White – any other White background
- Any other 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.

Research

Research is undertaken to add to the existing scientific knowledge on a particular subject. There are a number of staff within the Health Board who conduct Research studies. It is possible that during the course of your treatment you may be asked to take part in a research study, however, you do have the right to refuse, and this will not affect the care that you receive.

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 you 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.

The Health Board will endeavour to ensure that your information remains secure and confidential at all times. The Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) explains how personal information should be processed and this applies to all information whether held on paper or electronically on computer systems. We must ensure that all personal information is processed fairly, lawfully and as transparently as possible so you:

- Understand reasons for us processing your personal information
- Give your consent for the disclosure and use of information where necessary
- Gain trust in the way we handle your information
- Understand your rights regarding the right to request access to your information

For further information, please view our [Privacy Notice here](#).

The Caldicott Guardian, who is a senior health clinician, has the role to ensure we meet the highest standards for handling personal information within the Health Board.

If you would like any more information regarding this leaflet or about Information Governance, please contact:

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