



## Eligible Professional Meaningful Use Core Measures Measure 7 of 14

Stage 1

Last Updated: April 2013

Record Demographics	
Objective	Record all of the following demographics: (A) Preferred language (B) Gender (C) Race (D) Ethnicity (E) Date of birth
Measure	More than 50 percent of all unique patients seen by the EP have demographics recorded as structured data.
Exclusion	No exclusion.

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### Definition of Terms

**Preferred Language** – The language by which the patient prefers to communicate.

**Unique Patient** – If a patient is seen by an EP more than once during the EHR reporting period, then for purposes of measurement that patient is only counted once in the denominator for the measure. All the measures relying on the term “unique patient” relate to what is contained in the patient’s medical record. Not all of this information will need to be updated or even be needed by the provider at every patient encounter. This is especially true for patients whose encounter frequency is such that they would see the same provider multiple times in the same EHR reporting period.

### Attestation Requirements

NUMERATOR / DENOMINATOR

- **DENOMINATOR:** Number of unique patients seen by the EP during the EHR reporting period.

- **NUMERATOR:** Number of patients in the denominator who have all the elements of demographics (or a specific exclusion if the patient declined to provide one or more elements or if recording an element is contrary to state law) recorded as structured data.

The resulting percentage (Numerator ÷ Denominator) must be more than 50 percent in order for an EP to meet this measure.

## Additional Information

- Race and ethnicity codes should follow current federal standards published by the Office of Management and Budget ([http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg\\_statpolicy/#dr](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg_statpolicy/#dr)).
- If a patient declines to provide all or part of the demographic information, or if capturing a patient's ethnicity or race is prohibited by state law, such a notation entered as structured data would count as an entry for purposes of meeting the measure. In regards to patients who do not know their ethnicity, EPs should treat these patients the same way as patients who decline to provide race or ethnicity— identify in the patient record that the patient declined to provide this information.
- EPs are not required to communicate with the patient in his or her preferred language in order to meet the measure of this objective.

## Related Meaningful Use FAQs

To see the FAQs, click the New ID # hyperlinks below, or visit the CMS FAQ web page at <https://questions.cms.gov/> and enter the New ID # into the Search Box, clicking the "FAQ #" option to view the answer to the FAQ. (Or you can enter the OLD # into the Search Box and click the "Text" option.)

- What documentation is required when recording the preliminary cause of death in the event of mortality? [New ID #2909](#), [Old ID #10165](#)
- What do the numerators and denominators mean in measures that are required to demonstrate meaningful use? [New ID #2813](#), [Old ID #10095](#)
- For EPs who see patients in both inpatient and outpatient settings, and where certified EHR technology is available at each location, should these EPs base their denominators for meaningful use objectives on the number of unique patients in only the outpatient setting or on the total number of unique patients from both settings? [New ID #2765](#), [Old ID #10068](#)
- How does an EP determine whether a patient has been "seen by the EP" in cases where the service rendered does not result in an actual interaction between the patient and the EP, but minimal consultative services such as just reading an EKG? Is a patient seen via telemedicine included in the denominator for measures that include patients "seen by the EP"? [New ID #3307](#), [Old ID #10664](#)
- When a patient is only seen by a member of the EP's clinical staff during the EHR reporting period and not by the EP themselves, do those patients count in the EP's denominator? [New ID #3309](#), [Old ID #10665](#)
- Should patient encounters in an ambulatory surgical center be included in the denominator for calculating that at least 50 percent or more of an EP's patient encounters during the reporting period occurred at practices/locations equipped with certified EHR technology?

[New ID #3065](#), [Old ID #10466](#)

- If an EP sees a patient in a setting that does not have certified EHR technology but enters all of the patient's information into certified EHR technology at another practice location, can the patient be counted in the numerators and denominators of meaningful use measures?

[New ID #3077](#), [Old ID #10475](#)

## Certification and Standards Criteria

Below is the corresponding certification and standards criteria for electronic health record technology that supports achieving the meaningful use of this objective.

Certification Criteria	
<b>§170.304(c) Record demographics</b>	Enable a user to electronically record, modify, and retrieve patient demographic data including preferred language, gender, race, ethnicity, and date of birth. Enable race and ethnicity to be recorded in accordance with the standard specified at §170.207(f).
<b>Automated measure calculation</b>	For each meaningful use objective with a percentage-based measure, electronically record the numerator and denominator and generate a report including the numerator, denominator, and resulting percentage associated with each applicable meaningful use measure.
Standards Criteria	
<b>Race and Ethnicity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• §170.207(f) - The OMB Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity, Statistical Policy Directive No. 15, October 30, 1997.</li></ul>