



Wlpop Training: Registration Dates Available

Wlpop Training is offered annually to help facilities understand the statutory requirements for submitting discharge data to the WHA Information Center. The training provides an overview of the data collected, reporting requirements, and recent changes to data collection, including race and ethnicity, payer reporting, and other related updates.

WHAIC will continue offering virtual training in 2026, with plans to return to live, in-person training opportunities when it becomes more affordable for the masses to attend - perhaps in 2027. If you are unable to attend one of the virtual sessions, at least one session will be recorded and made available on the WHAIC Wlpop Education website.

Training and Registration Dates: The **three virtual Wlpop training sessions are located** on the WHA website under the Education Tab. Once you register, please note the time and add the event to your calendar. The WHA system does not provide or offer an “Add to my calendar” option.

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
Tuesday, October 20 9:00–10:30 a.m.	Thursday, October 22 9:00–10:30 a.m.	Thursday, October 29 1:00–2:30 p.m.

What will be covered?

All three sessions will cover the same core training material, giving Wlpop users multiple opportunities to participate.

Training will provide a practical review of the Wlpop reporting process, including:

- Wlpop reporting requirements and expectations
- Discharge data submission and validation
- Understanding and addressing Wlpop edits
- Data quality and common reporting issues
- Race and ethnicity reporting updates related to the revised OMB standards
- Payer reporting and other current data issues
- Tips for improving the accuracy and consistency of submitted data

Whether you are new to Wlpop reporting or have been submitting data for years, the training is intended to provide useful information and an opportunity to ask questions.

OMB Race and Ethnicity Updates: What Wisconsin Hospitals Need to Know

As you may recall from previous communications, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has updated the federal standards for collecting and reporting race and ethnicity data for the first time since 1997. The revised Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD 15) includes several significant changes, including a **combined race and ethnicity** question, and the addition of Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) as a minimum reporting category.

WHAIC began implementing the updated race and ethnicity categories in Wlpop effective October 1, 2024. Many Wisconsin hospitals and health systems have been working to update patient registration processes, electronic health record (EHR) systems, data extracts, and mapping to accommodate the new requirements.

With that being said, WHAIC recognizes that implementing these changes requires coordination across multiple areas of a hospital or health system, including registration, IT/EHR teams, data reporting staff, and leadership. Therefore, the **implementation timeline has been adjusted to allow additional time for facilities to prepare.** WHAIC will continue providing education, guidance, and technical support as facilities work toward full implementation.

WHAIC extended the race and ethnicity collection deadline to January 2028, encouraging facilities to progress toward compliance earlier. An [email](#) went out on August 18, detailing the transition plans and expected ongoing guidance.

Accurate race and ethnicity data are important for understanding health disparities, identifying inequities, improving access to care, and supporting better health outcomes. WHAIC appreciates the continued efforts of Wisconsin hospitals and health systems as we work together to improve the quality and usefulness of this information.





WHAIC Code	Main Category	Description
1	American Indian or Alaska Native	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.
2	Asian	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of East Asia, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
3	Black or African American	A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.
4	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
5	White	A person having origins in any of the peoples of North America, Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.
6	NEW: Middle Eastern or North African (MENA)	Americans can trace their origins to more than a dozen countries, including Egypt, Morocco, Iran, Turkey and Yemen. People from there can be white, brown or Black, as well as identify with an ethnic group, like Arab, Amazigh, Kurdish, Chaldean and more.
8	NEW: Hispanic or Latino/Latina	A person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race.
7	Declined	A person who refuses to answer this question.
9	Unavailable	A person unable to answer this question, or no available family member or caregiver to respond for the patient. May also be used by patients if their race is unknown.

For additional information and updates, please visit the WHAIC Wlpop resources or contact WHAIC with questions.

Memo: [EmailMemo_August2026_UpdatedtoOMBRaceandEthnicityCollection.pdf](#)

Wlpop Reminders for Submitters, Editors, and Data Users

- 1 New Accounts:** WHAIC does not create user accounts. All users must register - [Data Submitters tab](#) on our website.
- 2 Closing Batches:** When you finish editing, remember to close your batch using **“Mark Batch Complete.”**
- 3 Payer Data:** We continue to see patients age 68+ assigned to commercial payer codes (“A” codes). Generally, patients age 68+ should be mapped to straight Medicare (MED-09) **or Medicare Advantage (MPC-09)**. Review your quarterly **“No Medicare Age 68+”** report for corrections to your patient data.

~Also, please note – there is a [Wlpop manual](#) as well as other tools on our website.

Thank you for your continued partnership in advancing data quality and healthcare transparency across Wisconsin.