



## HELP US KNOW OUR PATIENTS BETTER

### *Questions about the Collection of Patient Race and Ethnicity Information*

#### **Why are these questions being asked?**

Health care providers are now collecting race and ethnicity information from all of our patients to help us know our patients better. We can better meet the needs of the communities that we serve if we know more about our patients, their culture and their language. We will also ask what language you like to discuss your health care and read health-related materials.

By knowing this information, we can reduce differences by making sure that all patients receive the same quality of care. This information will only be used to make sure that all patients are receiving appropriate care of the best quality. Personal information will be kept private and confidential.

#### **Are these questions being asked at other hospitals?**

There are new state regulations requiring all hospitals in Massachusetts to collect this information. We are collecting and reporting this information as part of a statewide effort to improve the health of all.

#### **How are my race and ethnicity related to my health?**

Studies have shown that there are differences in health among racial and ethnic groups. We need to learn more about what causes these differences, so we can make sure that all people receive the best care for them.

#### **How will this information be used?**

We will use the race and ethnicity information that we collect from all patients to see if there are any differences in health among different groups of people. This will help us make sure that we give the same quality of care to all people. We will also use this information to understand the needs of the people we serve and to make sure our care is culturally appropriate.

Our goal is to meet the needs of all of the patients that we serve. We can meet this goal by providing interpreter services, offering patient information translated into different languages, and making sure that our staff provide culturally appropriate care.

#### **What if I don't want to share this information?**

It is your decision if you want to share this information. This information is only being collected to help us know the patients that we serve better and it will not affect the care or services that you receive.

If you have any questions, please contact the Brigham and Women's Patient/Family Relations Department at 617-732-6636

*Improving the health of ALL*