

ETHNICITY AND PERINATAL DATA

(See attached list of categories from page 2 of the Pregnancy Notes)

The classification by Geographical Ethnic Origin (GEO) was developed by the Perinatal Institute because the current ONS / Census groupings do not meet requirements for medical data. In the perinatal field, this includes detailing maternal ethnic origin when assessing fetal growth, as is now also recommended by RCOG guidelines. It is also important to identify parents from the Middle East, Southern Europe etc for haemoglobinopathy screening.

Please note that this classification is not by race or ethnic *group*, but ethnic *origin* which is less contentious:

- It does not use colour – e.g. ‘White’ – a term which has never been defined.
- It does not use ‘Caucasian’ which is much too large a category - for example, the term also includes Indians and Pakistani.
- ‘Europe’ is subdivided into approximate geographical areas - northern, eastern, western, to complement a separate ‘southern Europe’ category.

Because of the geographical structure, it is easy to expand this method if numbers in the local population warrant separate groupings. For example, additional categories could include Hispanic American; African-American; Romany; Australian Aborigine, etc. So called ‘white’ Australians, Canadians, Americans and South Africans can simply be added as subgroups under the European-origin category.

A draft GEO classification has undergone a six month consultation period within the West Midlands, and has also been circulated to colleagues at DoH, ONS and NHSIA for comment. Amendments have been made to map the categories to those currently still used in the census groupings and within the NN4B dataset – including a category for Chinese (separate from ‘Far East’) and for Irish (separate from ‘British Isles’).

The new GEO classification is now in use within the hand held Pregnancy Notes (www.preg.info), the customised growth chart software (www.gestation.net) and the dataset of MANNERS, the Maternal and Neonatal Electronic Recording System (www.perinatal.nhs.uk/manners).

Further enquiries and comments are welcome.

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July 2003

Country of birth

Ethnic Origin (If mixed, tick more than one box)

	You	Baby's Father
Africa		
North Africa (eg Morocco, Algeria)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sub-Sahara (eg Somalia, Kenya, Nigeria)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="text"/>	
Asia		
India	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pakistan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bangladesh	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
China	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Far East Asia - Other (eg Japan, Korea)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
South East Asia (eg Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="text"/>	
Caribbean (eg Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Europe		
Britain (England, Scotland & Wales)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ireland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northern Europe (eg Denmark, Norway, Sweden)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Western Europe (eg France, Germany, Netherlands)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eastern Europe (eg Balkans, Poland, Russia)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Southern Europe (eg Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Turkey)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="text"/>	
Middle East (eg Egypt, Israel, Syria)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="text"/>	