Sample script for collecting patient race and ethnicity

Using OMB Race and Ethnicity Categories

"We want to make sure that all of our patients get the best care possible. We would like you to tell us your racial/ethnic background so that we can review the treatment that all patients receive and make sure that everyone gets the highest quality of care."

Ethnicity Question	Race Question
Do you consider yourself Hispanic/Latino/Spanish?	*Which category best describes your race?*
☐ Yes	☐ American Indian/Alaska Native
☐ No	☐ Asian
☐ Declined	☐ Black or African American
☐ Unavailable/Unknown	☐ Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
	☐ White
	☐ Some other race
	☐ Declined
	☐ Unavailable/Unknown

Using Open-ended or Granular Categories

"We want to make sure that all of our patients get the best care possible. We would like you to tell us your racial/ethnic background so that we can review the treatment that all patients receive and make sure that everyone gets the highest quality of care. I would like you to describe your race or ethnic background. You can use specific terms such as Korean, Mexican, Haitian, Somali, etc…"

If people express concern about confidentiality or who will see this information, state the following:

"The only people who see this information are registration staff, administrators for the hospital, and the people involved in quality improvement and oversight, and the confidentiality of what you say is protected by law."

Source: Hasnain-Wynia, R., Pierce, D., Haque, A., Hedges Greising, C., Prince, V., Reiter, J. (2007). Health Research & Educational Trust Disparities Toolkit.