**Use of Race/Ethnicity in Case Presentations:  Best Practice**

At PittMed, we want to ensure that all faculty use best practices when it comes to the use of race as identifiers in discussions about patients.  We know that racial identifiers typically offer very little in the way of actionable medical decision-making and can potentially bias clinicians and trainees.  Therefore, it has become best practice nationally for health providers to refrain from or limit using such language—in written communication about patients and in oral case presentations.

PREFERRED:                        “Mr. D is a 44yo man with a history of diabetes who presents with…”

NOT PREFERRED:              “Mr. D is a 44yo Black man with a history of diabetes who presents with…”

Educationally, this issue is likely to come up in many settings:

* teaching clinical skills in the MS1-2 years
* presenting cases in classroom didactics
* discussing cases in small groups or workshops
* writing notes or presenting patients on clinical rotations
* describing patients in scientific communications, articles, or case reports
* creating other teaching material related to patients (virtual cases, modules, etc.)

For all these situations, we want to be clear on how our medical students should be taught:  **racial or ethnic designations should NOT be included in the initial framing of the case**.

When writing clinical cases or exam questions, or presenting/describing patients, do not include racial or ethnic qualifier in the patient’s demographic description.  If the racial/cultural identify is pertinent to the case, consider including this information in the family/social history or in the discussion.

This may require you to review your current cases, slides, and exam questions to ensure appropriateness.  You may also want to communicate this clearly with any faculty you teach with, especially clinical preceptors.  When a student is on a clerkship, we want everyone who teaches them to know that race should not be used in the identifying information—so students get a consistent message.