Coding Spanish Origin

A recent analysis of Spanish Origin codes revealed that 24,719 patients were coded to unknown, and the number of cases coded to unknown has been slowly rising over time. However, text to code review revealed that 5.3% (1,331) had a last name or maiden name on the Spanish Surname list. These patients should have been coded to 7 at a minimum. Based on this analysis, here are a few reminders to keep in mind when coding Spanish Origin.

Reminders:

- Make sure to review:
  - **Volume 1, Spanish/Hispanic Origin coding instructions.** Revisions have been made based on clarifications obtained from SEER.
  - **Volume 1, Appendix J: Spanish Surnames list.**
- **Spanish Origin is independent of race. A patient can be ANY race and have Spanish Origin coded to 1 - 8.**
- Patients with a known birth country and their last name or maiden name is NOT on the Spanish Surname list (and no further information regarding ethnicity in the medical record), code to 0.
- Patients with dual last names where only one of the last names appears on the Spanish Surname list (and no other information in the medical record regarding ethnicity), code to 7.
- Patients born in Mexico (whether or not their last name or maiden name is on the Spanish Surname list), code to 1.
- Portuguese, Brazilian and Filipino patients are not presumed to be Spanish or non-Spanish.
  - If their last name or maiden name appears on the Spanish Surname list, code to 7.
  - If their last name or maiden name does NOT appear on the Spanish Surname list, code to 0.

Coding Examples:

- Married female, no maiden name, born in Peru, married last name IS on Spanish Surname list, no text regarding ethnicity in abstract.
  - No text regarding ethnicity but born in Peru - code to 4 (South American).
- Married female, no maiden name, born in Philippines, married last name NOT on Spanish Surname list, text states "Hispanic".
  - Text states Hispanic, therefore, code 6.
- Married female, no maiden name, born in Mexico, married last name NOT on Surname list and no text regarding ethnicity.
  - Code 1 (Mexican).

Additional Reference: SEER Program Coding and Staging Manual 2018