

**Table 7**

Additional Trends Suggested by Results That Were Different from Those of the 2007 Unpublished Just Associates Study

<b>Field Category</b>	<b>Key Trends</b>	<b>Explanations</b>
Last Name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were fewer typographical errors and misspellings.</li> <li>• There were twice as many pairs with completely different LNs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibly due to more compound names</li> </ul>
First Name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different names are more frequent than they used to be.</li> <li>• FN and LN swaps are 10 times more frequent than the previous study showed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevalence of nicknames</li> <li>• Registrar not being cognizant of data field being entered</li> </ul>
Middle Name	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MN differences are much higher.</li> <li>• Analysis of blanks in MN decreased.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Middle name captured more often, resulting in higher rates of discrepancy</li> </ul>
Social Security Number	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 58% have a blank or default value in one or both records, compared to 36.5% in 2007.</li> <li>• There is a significant volume of typographical or transposition errors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patients still hesitant about sharing SSN, but data capture increased over the years</li> <li>• Many systems require SSN, forcing registrars to change a digit in patient's SSN (because the patient's real SSN is already entered in the original patient record)</li> </ul>
Date of Birth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOB capture has increased overall over the years.</li> <li>• Birthdate day mismatches and year mismatches are both less frequent than they used to be.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOB is collected more accurately than it used to be</li> <li>• Likely helped by Joint Commission initiatives regarding positive patient identification</li> </ul>
Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender discrepancies have increased over the years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible explanations: sex-change operations, data entry errors, and reference lab specimen registrations (if the lab test is not gender specific, registrar keeps the default entry)</li> </ul>

*Abbreviations:* DOB = date of birth, FN = first name, MN = middle name, LN = last name, SSN = Social Security number.