Medical Care for the LGBTQ+ Population

JENNIFER RUSSOMANNO, DRPH, MPH, CHES ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE, MPH PROGRAM DIRECTOR UTK DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, LMU-DCOM

Disclosure

▶ I have no relevant financial disclosures.

Note: I have a doctorate in Public Health, not a medical license. This presentation will be from the perspective of a public health professional with some guidelines for how to create a LGBTQ+ inclusive practice. If you have a clinical question that I cannot or am not qualified to answer, I have contacts I can ask and get back with you ASAP.

Agenda

- What does it mean to be LGBTQ?
- LGBTQ in America
- Sexual Orientation as a Spectrum
- Tips and tricks to create an affirming LGBTQ practice
- ▶ Case Studies
- Round Table Open Forum (Q&A)

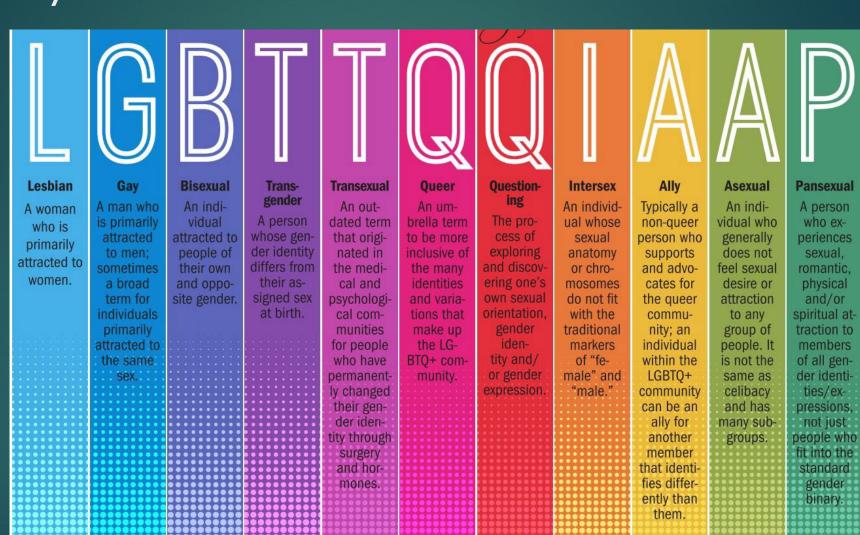
Learning Objectives

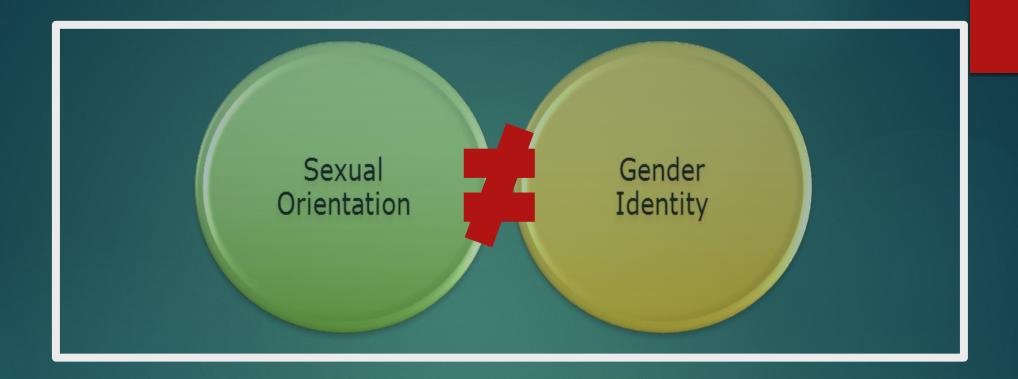
- Recall 3 health disparities existent for the LGBTQ+ population
- ▶ Explain the 3 dimensions that define sexual orientation.
- Explain 2 ways that healthcare providers can create a LGBTQ+ affirming practice
- Explain 2 ways that healthcare providers can properly care for the LGBTQ+ patient

What does the acronym mean?

- Lesbian (women who have sex with women)
- Gay (men who have sex with men)
- Bisexual (a person who has sex with both genders)
- Transgender (a person who identifies as a gender other than their sex assigned at birth)
- ► Questioning/Queer

But why the "+"?





All people have a sexual orientation and a gender identity

How people identify can change

Terminology varies

Gender identity and sexual orientation are separate concepts

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity: interrelated <u>AND</u> distinct concepts

Sexual Orientation

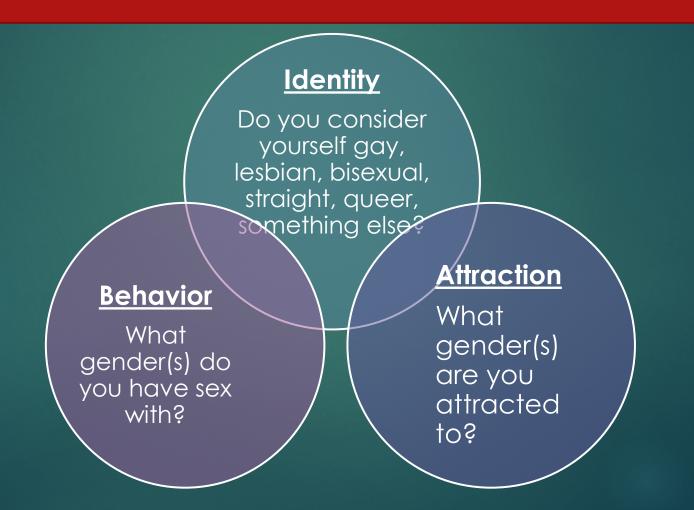
- Sexual orientation:
 - Romantic Attractions
 - Sexual Behavior
 - Sexual Identity
- Examples of sexual orientation includes the following unfixed categories:
 - ► Heterosexual (straight; opposite-sex attracted/behavior/identity)
 - Gay/Lesbian (same-sex attracted/behavior/identity)
 - Gay males
 - ▶ Lesbian females
 - Bisexual (same- and opposite- sex attracted/behavior/identity)

Gender Identity

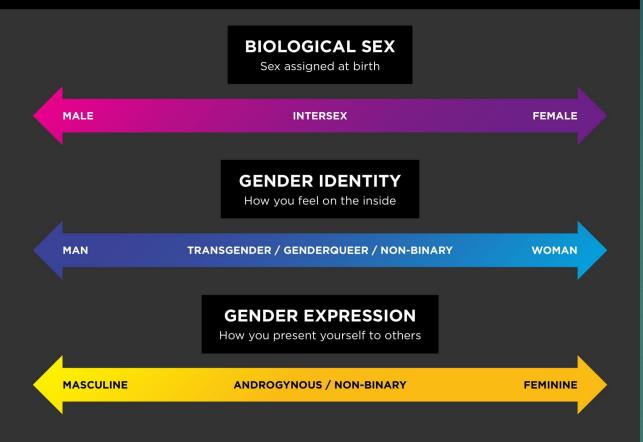
- One's sense of self as being a man or a woman or another gender (i.e., transgender)
- ► Transgender = individuals whose gender identity varies from their sex assignment at birth.
- Cisgender = individuals whose gender identity matches their sex assigned at birth.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION is how a person characterizes their physical and emotional attraction to others.

Sexual orientation has 3 dimensions.



THE SPECTRUM OF GENDER AND IDENTITY



THE SPECTRUM OF ORIENTATION



Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression are fluid and on a spectrum.

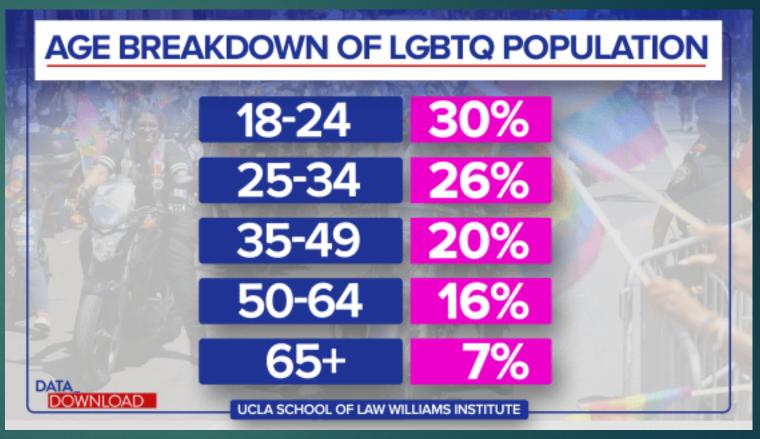
LGBTQ Statistics

National population surveys don't necessarily include sexual or gender identity

There is no way to obtain an exact count of LGBTQ people in the U.S.

Approximately 23.5 million adults in the U.S. identify as LGBTQ (7.1%)

Increasing with Millennials and Gen Z



- By 2030, Gen Z will make up 30% of our workforce
- This generation values diversity, inclusion, & social impact

Times are changing...



- Household Pulse Survey of Census 2021 captured Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) for the first time.
- ▶ This opens the door to additional, national, population-based data sets.
- https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/11/census-bureau-survey-exploressexual-orientation-and-gender-identity.html
- https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2021/12/31/transgender-foodinsecurity/ - Washington Post article discussing food insecurity among trans* people

LGBTQ in Healthcare

- Stigma, discrimination, violence, and even denial of care are all real issues that can dissuade LGBTQ+ people from seeking medical care.
- Medical schools in the U.S. spend little (if any) time on LGBTQ-related content.
 - ▶ 33% of medical schools have no LGBTQ content and 7% have none in preclinical years
- Healthcare providers aren't free of biases, which can get in the way of a LGBTQ+ person receiving adequate care.
- Many healthcare providers have very limited experiences with unique LGBTQ+ healthcare needs.
- Approx. 1/3 of LGBTQ medical students remain closeted throughout medical school and postgraduate training
 - ▶ 40% are fearful of discrimination if disclosing their sexual orientation
- LGBTQ people have unique health disparities that need to be addressed.

(Stanford Medicine, 2015; Gibson, Gobillot, Wang, 2020)

Stigma, Discrimination, & Health



Chronic and Acute Stress

Impacts

Mental Health Physical Health Access to Care

Access to Competent
Care

Health Disparities/Inequities

LGBTQ Health Disparities (Healthy People 2030)

LGBT health requires specific attention from health care and public health professionals to address a number of disparities, including:

- ▶ LGBT youth are 2 to 3 times more likely to attempt suicide. 18
- ▶ LGBT youth are more likely to be homeless. 19, 20, 21
- ▶ Lesbians are less likely to get preventive services for cancer.^{22, 23}
- Gay men are at higher risk of HIV and other STDs, especially among communities of color.²⁴
- ▶ Lesbians and bisexual females are more likely to be overweight or obese.²⁵
- ► Transgender individuals have a high prevalence of HIV/STDs,²⁶ victimization,²⁷ mental health issues,²⁸ and suicide²⁹ and are less likely to have health insurance than heterosexual or LGB individuals.³⁰
- ► Elderly LGBT individuals face additional barriers to health because of isolation and a lack of social services and culturally competent providers. 31
- ► LGBT populations have the highest rates of tobacco, 32, 33 alcohol, 33, 34 and other drug use. 33, 35, 36

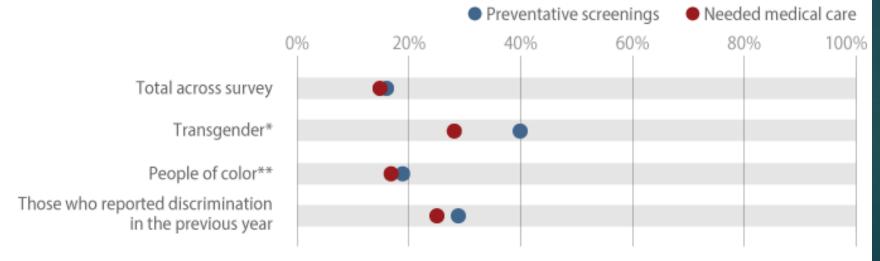
LGBTQ Fear of Discrimination (CAP Survey 2020)

Interviews with 1,528 self-identified LGBTQ adults ages 18 or older

FIGURE 11

One-quarter of LGBTQ Americans who faced discrimination in the previous year postponed or avoided receiving needed medical care for fear of further discrimination

Share of LGBTQ Americans who postponed or avoided health care for fear of discrimination, by demographic group



^{*} The statistics for transgender individuals include nonbinary, gender-noncomforming, genderqueer, and agender respondents.

Source: Center for American Progress and NORC at the University of Chicago online survey, June 2020, on file with the authors.



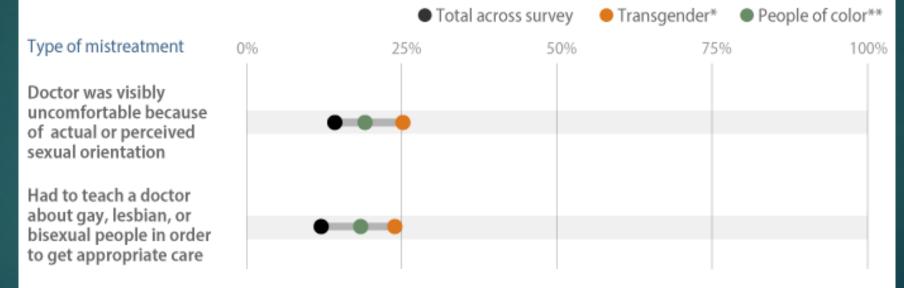
^{**} For the purposes of this survey, people of color include Black, Hispanic, Asian, and multiracial individuals, as well as those identifying as "other, non-Hispanic."

LGBTQ Actual Discrimination (CAP Survey 2020)

FIGURE 12

More than 1 in 10 LGBTQ Americans faced mistreatment by a doctor or health care provider

Share of LGBTQ Americans who reported mistreatment by doctors or health care providers, by demographic group



^{*} The statistics for transgender individuals include nonbinary, gender-noncomforming, genderqueer, and agender respondents.

Source: Center for American Progress and NORC at the University of Chicago online survey, June 2020, on file with the authors.



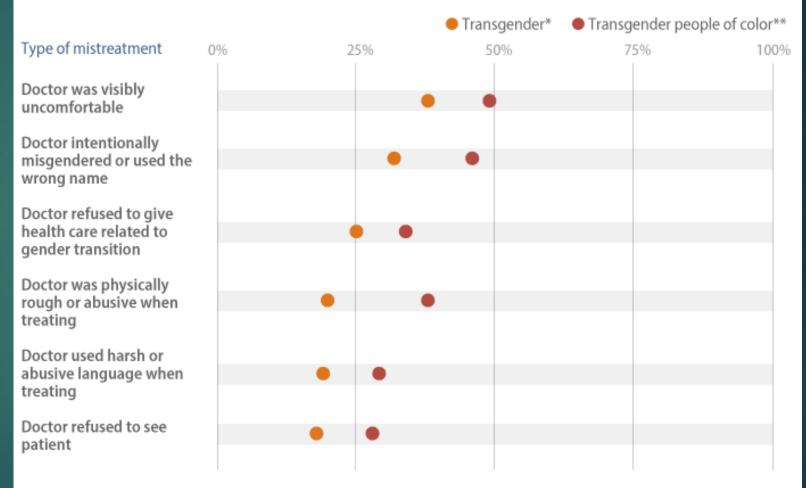
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Trans* Actual Discrimination (CAP Survey 2020)

FIGURE 13

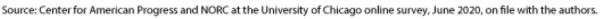
Transgender Americans face unique barriers to accessing health care

Share of transgender Americans who reported mistreatment by doctors or health care providers because of actual or perceived gender identity, by demographic group



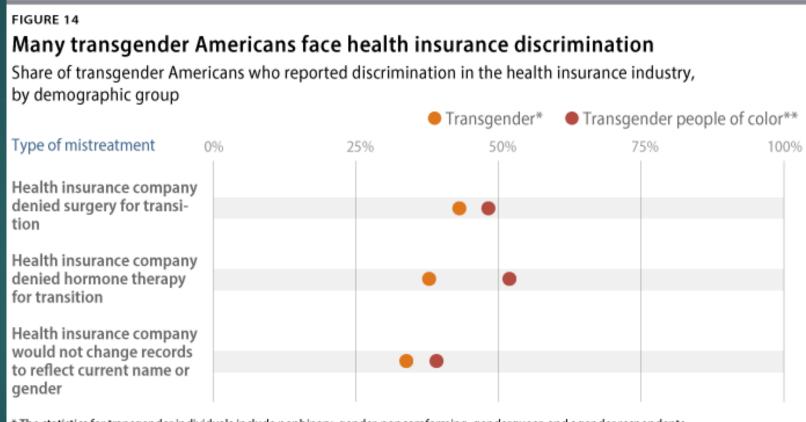
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Trans* Insurance Discrimination (CAP Survey 2020)

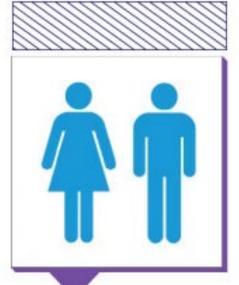


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In healthcare, STRAIGHTNESS IS typically ASSUMED.

INCREASED AWARENESS

of our numbers, geographical

of lesbian/bisexual women are not "out" to their healthcare provider*

Reasons for lack of disclosure include:

- » embarrassment
- » fear of ostracism or refusal to treat
- >> voyeuristic curiosity
- » breach of confidentiality
- » simply not comfortable having the conversation

location, behaviors, and concerns, will lead to increased research, which ultimately leads to improved healthcare and better health outcomes.

*Based on data from a needs assessment survey conducted by Mazzoni Center

Design by phillesbian.com

What can we do?

- Become familiar with clinical guidelines and recommendations for LGBTQ people.
- Adopt a formal policy of nondiscrimination and respect for each patient's sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Seek training on LGBTQ-appropriate care, nondiscrimination, and inclusivity.
- Educate yourself on LGBTQ cultural competencies.
- Do not assume your patient is heterosexual.
- Use the patient's preferred pronouns.
- Realize that your personal bias, religious beliefs and feelings can negatively influence the health of LGBTQ patients.
- Assess your own cultural competence & humility when caring for LGBTQ patients.
- Become a LGBTQ+ affirming healthcare provider

Providing affirming LGBTQ care will require both cultural competence and cultural humility

Cultural Competence

- knowing the background of cultures
- Attitude: feeling as if you know everything there is to know
- knowing a culture's values
- self-awareness
- · concrete, finite set of facts
- impartial

- working with difference
- addressing inequalities
- working collaboratively
- bringing our own stories to the situation

Cultural Humility

- critical self-reflection
- ongoing learning, understanding, curiosity
- Attitude: being vulnerable, humble, knowing that you do not have all the answers
- a lifetime commitment
- love, passion, empathy, equality
- reducing negative power relations

Cultural competency and microaggressions in the provision of care to LGBT patients in rural and appalachian Tennessee

Joanne G. Patterson^{a,*}, Jennifer M. Jabson Tree^a, Charles Kamen^b

Adapted LGBT Healthcare Scale.

(Mark one answer per row)			Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
1.	I would prefer not to provide care for lesbian, gay, or bisexual patients.	□ 1	\square_2	Пз	□4	□5
2.	I would refuse to care for a lesbian, gay, or bisexual patient if I were aware they identified as LGB.	\square_1	\square_2	\square_3	\Box_4	□5
3.	I feel competent to provide care for lesbian, gay, or bisexual patients.	\square_1	\square_2	\square_3	\square_4	□5
4.	Lesbian, gay, or bisexual patients have specific health needs.	\square_1	\square_2	\square_3	\square_4	□5
5.	I feel I would be able to talk to a patient who identifies as lesbian, gay, or bisexual in a sensitive and appropriate manner.	\Box_1	\square_2	Пз	□4	□5
6.	I believe my medical training adequately addressed the health needs of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual population.	□ 1	□ 2	□3	□4	□5
7.	I would prefer not to provide care for transgender patients.	\square_1	\square_2	□3	□4	□5
8.	I would refuse to care for a transgender patient if I were aware they identified as transgender.	\Box_1	\square_2	\square_3	\square_4	□5
9.	I feel competent to provide care for transgender patients.	\square_1	\square_2	\square_3	\Box_4	□5
10.	Transgender patients have specific health needs.	\square_1	\square_2	\square_3	\Box_4	□5
11.	I feel I would be able to talk to a patient who identifies transgender in a sensitive and appropriate manner.	□ 1	\square_2	\square_3	\Box_4	□5
12.	I believe my medical training adequately addressed the health needs of the transgender population.	□ 1	\square_2	□3	□ 4	□5

a Department of Public Health, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, United States

^b Cancer Control Unit, Department of Surgery, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY, United States

Study Results (n=85)

- ▶ 1 in 10 respondents stated they would prefer not to care for LGBT patients
- ▶ 92.9% stated they WOULD NOT refuse care to LGBT patients
- ▶ 54.1% felt competent to provide LGBT patient care
 - ► Fewer oncology than primary care providers felt competent treating LGBT patients, and more physicians than nurses reported their training did not adequately address LGBT issues.
- Qualitatively, interviewees (n=6) reported serving patients "equally" yet described discomfort with LGBT patients and LGBT microaggressions in clinical practice.

Microaggressions resulting from defining LGBT culturally competent care:

- "I will not pursue it [conversation about SOGI] unless it is something that is clearly a topic that the patient wishes to discuss. If it not something that they want to be explicit about, that is fine." (HC.187, oncology nurse)
- "I ask the patient if I can call them by their [birth/legal] name, because of my beliefs, I do not care—if I know it's a male and he still has a penis, I will not call him Margaret or say she." (HC.411, public health nurse)

Becoming an affirming LGBTQ+ provider COMMUNICATION

Communications: The Whole Team



Many LGBT people have difficulty finding health care where they feel included and accepted.

In the next few slides, we'll discuss basic communication principles and strategies for creating welcoming environments for all.

Avoiding

ASSUMPTIONS-

A key principle of effective communication is to avoid making assumptions:

- Don't assume you know a person's gender identity or sexual orientation based on how they look or sound
- Don't assume you know how a person wants to describe themselves or their partners
- <u>Don't assume</u> all of your patients are heterosexual and cisgender (not transgender)

Avoiding

ASSUMPTIONS

To avoid making assumptions about gender identity or sexual orientation with new clients, use gender-neutral terms and avoid using pronouns. For example:

- Instead of: "How may I help you, sir?"
 - ► Say: "How may I help you?"
- Instead of: "She is here for her appointment."
 - ▶ Say: "The patient is here in the waiting room."
- ▶ Instead of: "What are your mother and fathers' names?"
 - ➤ Say: "What are your parent(s) or guardian(s)' names?"
- Instead of: "Do you have a wife/husband?"
 - ▶ Say: "Are you in a relationship?" or "Do you have a partner?"

Using

NAMES & PRONOUNS

- ► Another key principle of effective communication is to use clients' preferred names and pronouns
- Transgender people often change their name to affirm their gender identity
 - This name is sometimes different than what is on their insurance or identity documents
- Transgender people want others to use pronouns that affirm their gender identity

Using

NAMES & PRONOUNS

- Registration forms should have a space for clients/patients to enter their preferred name and pronouns
- ► This information should also be included in all records including medical records
- A patient's pronouns and preferred name should be used consistently by all staff

Using NAMES & PRONOUNS

Subjective	Objective	Possessive
She	Her	Hers
He	Him	His
They	Them	Theirs
Ze	Zim	Zirs
Sie/Zie	Hir	Hirs



Using NAMES & PRONOUNS-

- If you are unsure about a patient's preferred name or pronouns:
 - "I would like be respectful—what name and pronouns would you like me to use?"
- ▶ If a patient's name doesn't match insurance or medical records:
 - "Could your chart/insurance be under a different name?"
 - "What is the name on your insurance?"
- ▶ If you accidentally use the wrong term or pronoun:
 - "I'm sorry. I didn't mean to be disrespectful."

Keeping Up with Terminology

Avoid these
Outdated Terms

Consider these Terms Instead

Homosexual

Gay, lesbian, bisexual, or LGBT

Transvestite; Transgendered

Transgender

Sexual preference; Lifestyle choice

Sexual orientation

Tips and Tools to enhance your LGBTQ+ affirming practice (Language)

SAY THIS:	INSTEAD OF:	WHY?
They The patient	He, she, Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms. or Sir, Ma'am	If you do not yet know the gender identity and gender pronouns of a patient, it is important to use gender-neutral alternatives like "the patient" or "they" rather than making an assumption of their gender. You can also simply eliminate the gendered term and not use a substitute. For example, you could say "excuse me, how may I help you?" Instead of "excuse me, sir, how may I help you?"
Folks or Everyone	Ladies and gentlemen	These are gender neutral alternatives to addressing a group of people.
Parent or guardian	Mother or father	Not every family includes a mother and/or father. Parent/Guardian are gender-neutral alternatives that convey the same meaning.
Sibling	Brother or sister	This is a gender-neutral term that applies to siblings of all genders, and would be inclusive of someone who is non-binary or gender non-conforming.
Significant Other or Spouse or Partner	Boyfriend or girlfriend or Husband or wife	Significant Other is a term that does not assume the gender of someone's romantic partner. It can also be used to refer to a romantic partner who does not identify as male or female. Similarly, spouse can be used if a couple has married.
Intersex	Hermaphrodite	Hermaphrodite is an outdated term with a negative medical history, that when used can be stigmatizing to Intersex people. Intersex is the term used by the Intersex community.
Gay or lesbian	Homosexual	The term homosexual has a negative medical history as being used as a "diagnosis," or in conjunction with "conversion therapy." Additionally, the term is often used when referring to a discomfort with gay and lesbian communities.

Tips and Tools to enhance your LGBTQ+ affirming practice (Language)

Pro Tip: If you make a mistake, and use the wrong name or wrong gender pronoun, simply apologize and acknowledge your mistake. You can say, "I apologize for using the wrong pronoun, I did not mean to disrespect you. I won't let that happen again."

SAY THIS:	INSTEAD OF:	WHY?
Transgender person	"Transgendered" or "A Transgender"	Transgender is a term that should always be used as an adjective, not a noun or past state of being.
Cisgender woman or cisgender man	"A real woman" or " a normal man"	Saying "real" or "normal" implies that transgender people are abnormal, which is false and a stigmatizing way to refer to someone.
Assigned female at birth or assigned male at birth	"born female" or "born male" or "biological" gender "male bodied" or "female bodied"	Using "assigned sex at birth" accurately describes how gender is attributed to newborns. Furthermore, the "-bodied" language is often interpreted as pressure to medically transition, or can be interpreted as invalidation of someone's gender identity.
Who are your sexual partners? or What are the genders of your sexual partners?	Do you have sex with men, women or both? or Assuming the gender of someone's sexual partner(s)	This open ended, gender-neutral question will help avoid making assumptions about someone's sexual orientation or sexual behavior during a sexual history. Only asking about "men, women, or both" also can act to erase non-binary identities, and might cause a patient to not be as open with their provider.
Could your chart be under a different name? or What is the name/ gender on your insurance?	We don't have you in our records. or What's your real name/gender? Oh, I see you're actually [insert other name]	If a patient's name or gender does not match what you have in the medical record, it is best to ask respectfully about a possible additional or previous name, rather than invalidating the patient's identity or making them feel stigmatized and uncomfortable.
I apologize for using the wrong pronoun, I did not mean to disrespect you.	It's too hard for me to remember your pronoun.	If you make a mistake and use the wrong gender pronoun for someone, simply apologize and acknowledge your mistake.

Accountability is **KEY**

- Creating an environment of accountability and respect requires everyone to work together
- Don't be afraid to politely correct your colleagues if they make a mistake or make insensitive comments
 - "Those kinds of comments are hurtful to others and do not create a respectful work environment."
 - "My understanding is that this patient prefers to be called 'Jane', not 'John'."

Becoming an affirming LGBTQ+ provider

SIGNAGE AND INTAKE FORMS

Our physicians and staff support the American Medical Association nondiscrimination policy, in that:

This office appreciates the diversity of human beings and does not discriminate based on race, age, religion, ability, marital status, sexual orientation, sex or gender identity.



Creating a LGBTQ+ Affirming Practice

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Data Collection

- □ Registration/intake forms have options for:
 - Name used (distinct from administrative/legal name)
 - Gender identity (distinct from administrative/legal sex)
 - Gender pronouns
 - Sexual orientation
- ☐ If no forms are used, registration staff are observed asking patients for their gender and name as distinct from what may be on their government issued identification or insurance card.
- □ Document SOGI fields in the electronic medical record, for example:
 - In the Epic electronic medical record, these fields exist at registration, and via the SOGI Smartform.

Pro Tip: To ascertain a patient's gender identity and name used at registration, ask, "Is the information on your insurance card, such as your name and gender, up to date and accurate?" This is a friendly way to let a patient know that you are not making an assumption about their gender.

Actual photo from a sexual minority patient here in East TN...

	3. Do you still have reproductive organs? Yes No					
	a. If YES, please select form of birth control:					
	b. If NO,					
	NO - I have had a complete hysterectomy (uterus and Date of complete hysterectomy?					
NO - I have had a partial hysterectomy (one or both Date of partial hysterectomy?						

Tips and Tools to enhance your LGBTQ+ affirming practice (Intake Form)

FENWAY EIII Client Regis Legal Name* Last	HEALTH	and is protected under M Ch. 111, Sec 70. Yo	nedical record is confidenti assachusetts General Lav ur written consent will t formation except in the cas	vs (For office use only)
Legal Sex (please check of *While Fenway recognizes a number unfortunately do not. Please be a used on documents pertaining to it propours are different from these	one)*	☐ Male rance companies and legulary and le	Prono gal entities ance must be	
	Day Year Social Secu		State ID # or Licen	
Home Phone () Ok to leave voicemail? □ Yes □ No	Cell Phone () Ok to leave voicemail?	Work Phone	Bes □ H	t number to use: ome □ Cell
Address	City		State	ZIP
Email address:				
Occupation	Employer/School	ol Name Are you	u covered under school	l or employer's insurance? Yes □ No
Emergency Contact's Nar	ne Phon	e Number	Rela	tionship to you

Tips and Tools to enhance your LGBTQ+ affirming practice (Intake Form)

This information is for demographic purposes only and will not affect your care.								
1.) What is your annual income? No income 1a.) How many people (including you) does your income support?	2.) Employment Status Employed full time Employed part time Student full time Student part time Retired Unemployed Other	3.) Racial Group(s) (check all that apply) African American / Black Asian Caucasian / White Native American / Alaskan Native / Inuit Pacific Islander Other	4.) Ethnicity Hispanic/Latino/Latina Not Hispanic/Latino/Latina 5) Country of Birth USA Other					
6.) Preferred Language (choose one:) □ English □ Español □ Français □ Português □ Русский Other	7.) Do you think of yourself as: Lesbian, gay, or homosexual Straight or heterosexual Bisexual Something else Don't know	8.) Marital Status Married Partnered Single Divorced Other 9.) Veteran Status Not a Veteran	10.) Referral Source Self Friend or Family Member Health Provider Emergency Room Ad/Internet/Media Outreach Work or School Other					
11.) What is your gender? □ Female □ Male □ Genderqueer or not exclusively male or female	12.) What was your sex assigned at birth? ☐ Female ☐ Male	13.) Do you identify as transgender or transsexual? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know	Please turn over					

Case Studies

Case Study 1: Janice and Tonya

- Two women, Janice and Tonya, arrive with a baby for a 6 month check up and immunizations
- A medical assistant introduces herself to Janice and says, "Oh, did you bring your sister? How nice!"
- Tonya and Janice both frown. Tonya says with exasperation, "Actually, I'm her wife and this is our baby."
 - Why are Tonya and Janice upset?
 - What could the medical assistant have said instead?
 - How could the medical assistant apologize?



Case Study 2: Marcus

- In talking about his history, Marcus tells Amy, his nurse practitioner, that he has had 2 male sexual partners this year, as well as female partners in prior years.
- Amy encourages Marcus to have an HIV test by saying, "I recommend all my gay patients get tested at least once a year."
- After Amy says this, Marcus appears upset.
 - Why is Marcus upset?
 - What could Amy have said instead?



Case Study 3: Chris

- A new patient, Chris, completes the registration paperwork and hands it to Mike at the front desk.
- Mike is looking over the forms and notices that Chris has skipped the gender question. Mike asks Chris to complete the skipped question.
- Chris says, "But I don't identify with the options (male or female) and left it blank on purpose."
 - How can Mike proceed with this patient's registration?
 - How can Mike work with this patient to be respectful?
 - What are ways in which this scenario could be avoided?



Helpful Resources

GLMA: Finding a LGBTQ+ friendly provider: http://www.glma.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.ViewPage&PageID=939

AMA: Creating an LGBTQ-friendly practice:

https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/population-care/creating-lgbtq-friendly-practice

GLMA: Guidelines for Care of LGBT Patients:

http://www.glma.org/_data/n_0001/resources/live/Welcoming%20Environment.pdf

OutCare: Public LGBTQ Healthcare Resources (organized by state): https://www.outcarehealth.org/resources/

LGBTQ+ Provider Training and Education Resources https://fenwayhealth.org/the-fenway-institute/education/the-national-lgbtia-health-education-center/

Recommendations for LGBTQ-inclusive Content in Medical School Curricula https://sites.tufts.edu/tuftsbqa/files/2016/04/BQA-Curriculum-Recs-2018.pdf

Open Forum Q&A

A few notes:

- This is a safe place to ask questions you might have related to LGBTQ+ care.
- ▶ There is no stupid question.
- The goal is to give you the tips and tools you need to provide the most competent care to your LGBTQ patients.
- I do not know what you know, what you do not know, or what you'd like to know more about. So...ask!
- If I do not know the answer immediately, I will find out from one of my colleagues and email a response.
- I also welcome people to share their experiences with LGBTQ+ patients (as I am not a clinician)

Thank you!

Jennifer Russomanno <u>jrussoma@utk.edu</u>

