



Creating Inclusive Environments to Promote LGBTQ+ Health Outcomes

Building Inclusive Environments

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Disclosures

I have no conflicts of interests or commercial relationships to disclose.



Land Acknowledgement

I would like to take a moment to recognize the unceded ancestral lands of the first people. Specifically, we honor the Očhéthi Šakówin (meaning Seven Council Fires, which is the proper name for the people referred to as Sioux), the hinono'eino' biito'owu' (Arapaho), Ndé Kónitsąąíí Gokíyaa (Lipan Apache), and Tséstho'e (Cheyenne) people.

We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today.

Infectious diseases do not discriminate. As part of our response to the HIV epidemic, we must elevate those groups who have been historically marginalized in our communities. It is our responsibility to listen, recognize, and bring their experiences to the forefront.

To find the ancestral land for your community, please reference: https://www.sdstate.edu/wokini-initiative/land-

acknowledgement#:~:text=South%20Dakota%20State%20University%20acknowledges,people%20referred%20to%20as%20Sioux







Objectives & Roadmap

- Address LGBTQ+ stigma within your healthcare practice to improve patient outcomes
- Integrate inclusive practices into the clinical setting
- Utilize patient first language and pronouns to respect the diversity of lived experience



REFRESH!

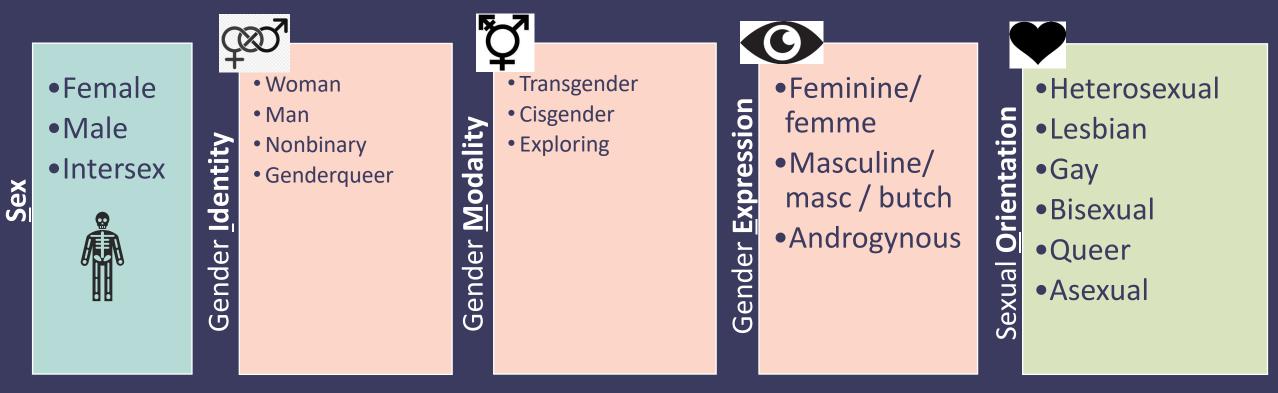


Vanessa Goes to the Doctor





The SIMEO Model: sex, identity, modality, expression, orientation



This is not an exhaustive list! Many additional identity labels exist.

Adapted from: Green, E.R. & Maurer, L.M. (2015). The Teaching Transgender Toolkit: A Facilitator's Guide to Increasing Knowledge, Decreasing Prejudice, & Building Skills. Ithaca, NY: Planned Parenthood of the Southern Finger Lakes: Out for Health. ISBN: 978-0-9966783-0-8. www.teachingtransgender.com. Slides adapted from the PAETC: JaDawn Wright, Mazdak Mazarei

Explaining Sex vs. Gender

Sex

A person's reproductive biology that is typically categorized into "male" and "female," and sometimes "intersex"

May include:

- Reproductive organs
- Genitals
- Hormones and hormone receptors
- Chromosomes

Sex is socially constructed. Humans decide who fits into what category. Sex assigned at birth is based on external anatomy.

Gender

A person's gender affects how they interact with the world, often based on socially constructed roles and expectations

May include:

- Identity (who I am/how I see myself)
- Modality (have I transitioned in gender)
- Expression (how I present)
- Attribution (how people see me)

Gender is socially constructed. Each culture/society has its own options for gender identities and expectations that accompany them.







Oregon SOGI Recommendations

Figure 1. Required Demographic Questions
1. Please describe your gender in any way you prefer:
2. What is your gender? (check all that apply) ☐ Girl, Woman ☐ Boy, Man ☐ Non-binary ☐ Agender/No gender ☐ Questioning ☐ Not listed. Please specify: ☐ ☐ Don't know ☐ I don't know what this question is asking¹ ☐ I don't want to answer
3. Are you transgender? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐ I don't know what this question is asking ☐ I don't want to answer
4. Please describe your sexual orientation or sexual identity in any way you want:
5. How do you describe your sexual orientation or sexual identity? (check all that apply) ☐ Same-gender loving ☐ Same-sex loving ☐ Lesbian ☐ Gay ☐ Bisexual ☐ Pansexual ☐ Straight (attracted mainly to or only to other gender(s) or sex(s)) ☐ Asexual ☐ Queer ☐ Questioning ☐ Don't know ☐ Not listed. Please specify: ☐ I don't know what this question is asking ☐ I don't want to answer

https://www.oregon.gov/oha/EI/REALD%20Documents/DRAFT-SOGI-Recommendations.pdf



What makes an environment inclusive?



Creating LGBTQ+ Inclusive Environments

Staff Training

- Ensure ALL staff are trained in using inclusive language
- Patients interact with lots of people when they come into your practice: scheduling on the phone, front desk staff, nurses, providers
- These are all opportunities to make someone feel seen and affirmed and help ensure they'll come back for another appointment!

Visual cues

- "All are welcome here" signage, inclusive imagery, rainbow flags
- Materials and brochures from community partners and with information specific to LGBTQ+ health needs
- Visibly post a "nondiscrimination" statement

Using neutral language

- Instead of asking about mother/father, ask about parents
- Use the gender neutral "THEY" or someone's name when you don't know a person's pronoun

Creating an environment that allows for identity to change over time

- Asking identity information on a regular basis
- Utilizing workflows so names/pronouns are communicated across the team

Creating inclusive intake forms



VISUAL CUES



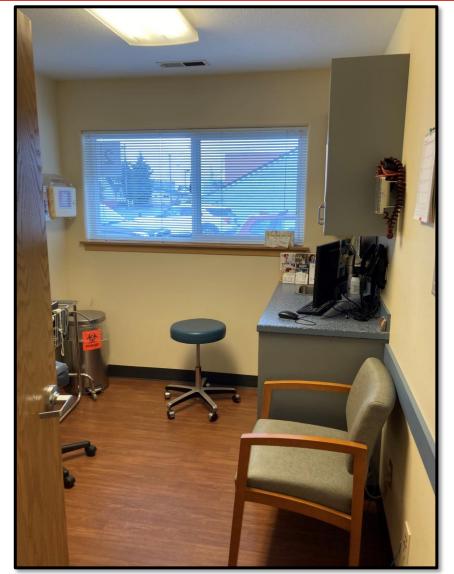
Clinic Walkthrough





Clinic Walkthrough







Clinic Walkthrough

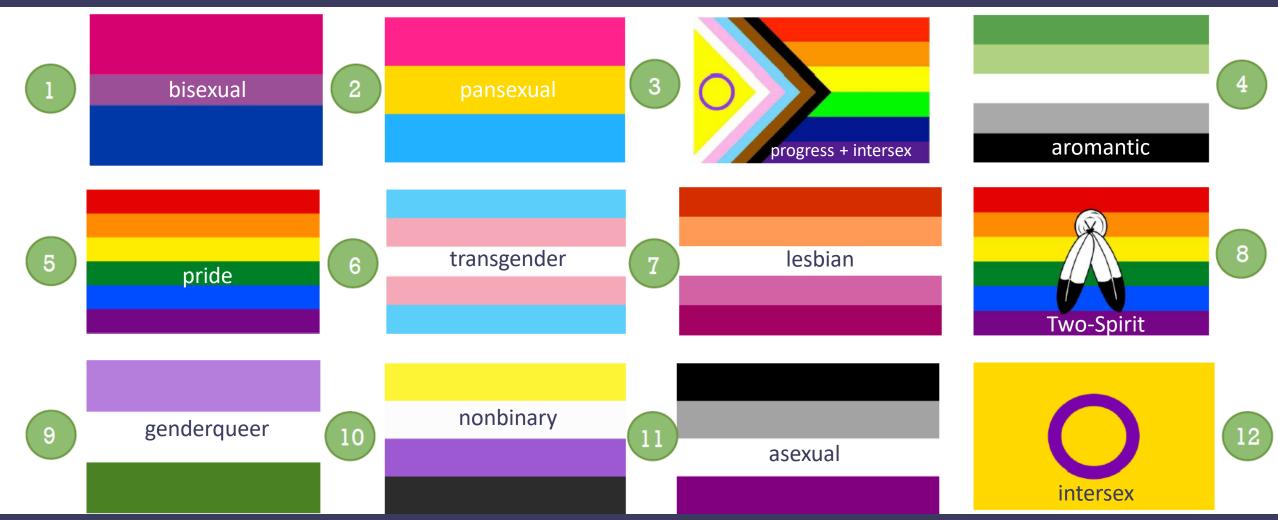
- What did you notice?
- What messages might a patient receive walking through the space?
- Where do you see opportunities to make the space more welcoming and inclusive?







What flags do you know?







USING NAMES AND PRONOUNS



Why are pronouns important?





Pronouns Expanded

Common neopronouns, with the singular 'they' included for reference, and examples of how they are used

	Subject Pronouns	Object Pronouns	Possessive Adjectives	Possessive Pronouns	Reflexive Pronouns	
They	They laughed	I called them	Their eyes gleam	That is theirs	They like themselves	
Ne	Ne laughed	I called <i>nem</i>	Nir eyes gleam	That is nirs	Ne likes nemself	
Ve	Ve laughed	I called <i>ver</i>	Vis eyes gleam	That is vis	Ve likes verself	
Spivak	Ey laughed	I called em	Eir eyes gleam	That is eirs	Ey likes emself	
Ze/Zie and Hir	Ze laughed	I called <i>hir</i>	Hir eyes gleam	That is hirs	Ze likes hirself	
Ze/Zie and Zir	Ze laughed	I called zir	Zir eyes gleam	That is zirs	Ze likes zirself	
Xe	Xe laughed	I called xem	Xyr eyes gleam	That is xyrs	Xe likes xemself	



Pronoun Practice

- Get into pairs
- Take 2 minutes to tell your partner about someone in your life, using only they/them pronouns.
- After you're done, swap!
- If you feel comfortable with they/them pronouns already, try some other pronouns
 - Ze/Zir
 - Xe/Xem
 - Only using the person's name



Using Identity Terms

- It is important to listen to, understand, and mirror the terms that patients use to describe themselves
- Keep in mind that some people do not like to use any terms to describe their gender identity
- Some people may not use a personal pronoun. As appropriate, use the person's name or chosen identifier
- People may have different ways they identify in different settings, e.g., work vs personal life

www.lgbtqiahealtheducation.org



Using Names and Pronouns

- If you are unsure about a client's name or personal pronouns:
 - "I would like be respectful—what name and pronouns would you like me to use?"
- If a client'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, and you catch yourself:
 - Quickly apologize and correct yourself. "He-I'm sorry, she..."
- If you accidentally use the wrong term or pronoun, and the person corrects you:
 - "Thank you for correcting me. I'll make a note, so I get it right next time."
 - Make sure you do make the note!

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Video: Finding a patient who is in your system under a different name



Registration Staff

Example of a negative and positive interaction: Helping a transgender patient who has changed her name.



ASKING THE QUESTIONS

VIA FORMS



In one word, why is it important to ask patients about sexual orientation and gender identity?



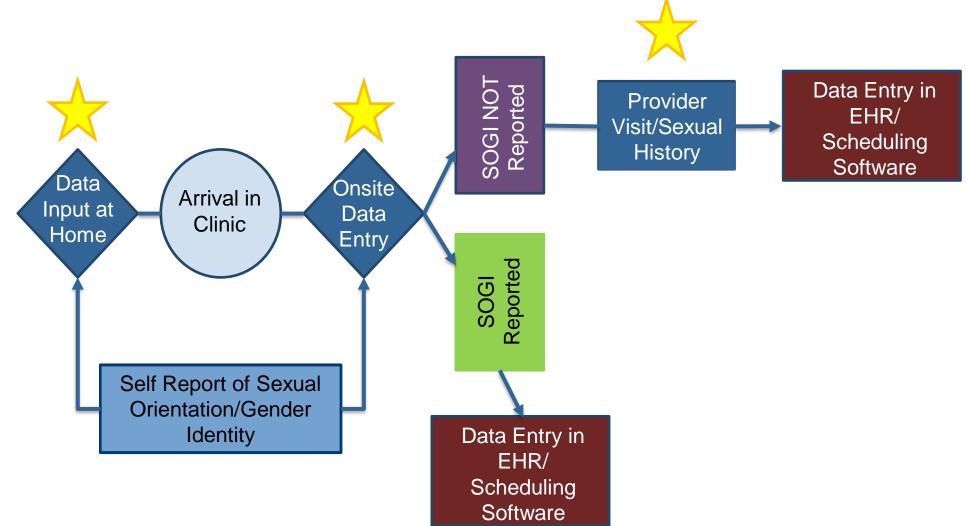


Principles of SOGI Data Collection

- Create inclusive and welcoming environments
- Recognize the true diversity of people
- Support health equity efforts
- Direct people to group-specific services
- Shift social norms about who is expected to be a person



Gathering Data





Sample Form

Patient Demographic	Form								
CLIENT INFORMATION									
Name:						SSN			
Last	First			Middle	Э				
Other Name(s) Used:				Las	t Name at	Birth:			
Birthdate:		_ □ Female	☐ Male	☐ Female t	o Male 🛚	Male to Fe	male 🗖 No	on- binary	☐ Declined
Street Address:		(City:			State:	Zi	ip:	
Mailing Address (If different from A	bove):			City:			State:		Zip:
Please provide us with at least two	contact phone	numbers and	tell us wha	at kind of pho	ne number	s they are:			
(<u>)</u> Ho	me 🗖 Work	☐ Cell Phor	ne 🗖 Mes	sage					
(🗖 Ho	me 🗖 Work	☐ Cell Phor	ne 🗖 Mes	sage					
Do we need to contact you at a d	ifferent mailin	g address, pl	none or th	rough an alt	ernate me	thod for co	nfidential is	sues?	Yes □ No
Do you need an interpreter? ☐ Ye		_		_					
Which of the following best describ	es you:								
Race - Mark all that apply:	☐ Alaskan	Native I	☐ Americ	an Native	☐ Asian		Ethnicit	у 🔲 і	Hispanic
	☐ Native Ha	awaiian (☐ Pacific	Islander	☐ White	☐ Black			Non-Hispanic

MR#



		-					MR#					
Snot for name other												
Spot for name other than legal name	ogr MAT	seled	l include way to ct which name		Could	d include s pronoun	•					
Name:		patierii	t wants to go b	У			SSN:					
Other Name(s) Used	d:		First			ddle ∟ast Name at B	irth:					assume a maiden
Birthdate:			□ Fem	ale 🗖 Male	☐ Fema	le to Male 📮	Male to Fema	ale 🗆 Non	- binary	☐ Declin	na	me
Street Address: Mailing Address (If of Please provide us w			"sex assigned and ask about	ould includ ed at birth," out gender	e d of p	"FTM" an		State:are no used.		transg nonbin	cludes gender and ary gender ptions	
() Do we need to con Do you need an inte			identity se rent mailing address No What is vo			Better to "transge	use tern nder mar ender wo	ns like n" and	ues? 🗖	Yes 🗅 No	o	
Which of the following			•		9	<u> </u>						
Race – Mark all th	at apply	<i>/</i> : □	Alaskan Native	☐ America	n Native	☐ Asian		Ethnicity	۵H	lispanic		
			Native Hawaiian	☐ Pacific Is	slander	☐ White	☐ Black		<u> </u>	lon-Hispar	nic	MWAETC

Sample Form

4. Ethnicity ☐ Hispanic/Latino/ Latina/Latinx ☐ Not Hispanic/Latino/ Latina Latinx	5. Country of Birth USA Other:	6. Preferred Language (choose one) English Español Français Português Pyсский Other:
7. Sexual Orientation Lesbian Gay Straight or heterosexual Bisexual Another orientation: Don't know/not sure	8. Marital Status Married Partnered Single Divorced Other Don't know/not sure 9. Veteran Status Not a Veteran	10. Referral Source Self Friend or Family Member Health Provider Emergency Room Ad/Internet/Media/ Outreach Worker/School Other:
11. How would you best describe your gender? Female/Woman Male/Man Trans woman or Transfeminine Trans man or Transmasculine Nonbinary, genderqueer, or not exclusively male or female Another gender:	12. What sex* was listed on your first birth certificate? *We are currently testing the best ways for us to capture additional sexes. We know this question does not currently fully represent our communities. □ Female □ Male	13. Do you identify as trans, transgender, transsexual, or as having a trans history? Yes No Don't know / Not sure



Inclusive language is precise language

Sample SOGI Questions

Figure 1. R	equired Demographic Questions
1. Please d	lescribe your gender in any way you prefer:
2. What is	your gender? (check all that apply) ☐ Girl, Woman ☐ Boy, Man ☐ Non-binary ☐ Agender/No gender ☐ Questioning ☐ Not listed. Please specify: ☐ Don't know ☐ I don't know what this question is asking¹ ☐ I don't want to answer
3. Are you	transgender? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐ I don't know what this question is asking ☐ I don't want to answer
4. Please d	lescribe your sexual orientation or sexual identity in any way you want:
5. How do	you describe your sexual orientation or sexual identity? (check all that apply) ☐ Same-gender loving ☐ Same-sex loving ☐ Lesbian ☐ Gay ☐ Bisexual ☐ Pansexual ☐ Straight (attracted mainly to or only to other gender(s) or sex(s)) ☐ Asexual ☐ Queer ☐ Questioning ☐ Don't know ☐ Not listed. Please specify: ☐ I don't know what this question is asking ☐ I don't want to answer



Organ Inventory Questions



Screenshot of University of Pittsburgh Medical Center electronic medical records system, Epic Software.



Sexual Behavior Questions

SEXUAL HEALTH

- Are you sexually active? Yes□ No □
 If No, have you been sexually active in the past year? Yes□ No □
- If yes to question 7: Are your sexual partners (Check all that apply):
 - A person with a penis
 - A person with a vagina
 - A person with intersex genitalia
 - A person who had genital reassignment surgery

- □ Don't know
- I don't know what this question is asking
- □ I don't want to say



Forms: Things to Consider

- Does your form make anyone who does not identify as cisgender/heterosexual feel comfortable and welcome at your clinic?
- Does your form collect information in a way that matches EHR fields?
 - If not, is there a reason why?
- How is information from forms shared across the team?
- It's okay to have blank fields. Not everyone wants to disclose identity information on their medical record.



https://www.lgbtqiahealtheducation.org/publication/focus-forms-policy-creating-inclusive-environment-lgbt-patients/

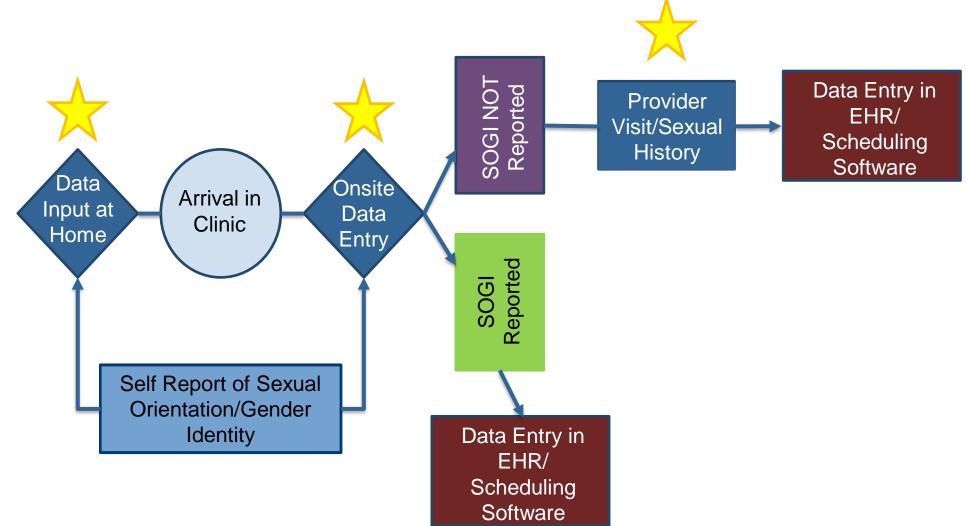


ASKING THE QUESTIONS

IN PERSON



Gathering Data





Ask the question in a routine way

We ask everyone about their gender, transgender status, sex, sexual orientation and current sexual partners. We do so to ensure everyone receives the highest quality of care.

Guidelines about answers to questions

- Respect their answers, including their own language (or choices if you provide categories).
- Allow people to answer, and to use as much of their own language as possible.
- Use common sense.
- Refrain from communicating judgment, including about discomfort, refusals, or question.
- If a person does not want to answer these questions, move on.

AVOID making the focus of the interaction

- "I'm asking you these questions because the government says I have to." (This is a standard of care.)
- "This will help us hire staff to better meet your needs." (This is not done for some financial incentive.)
- Your own discomfort

Focus the motivation for the interaction on

- "This will help us make sure that everyone receives the highest quality of care (or services)"
- The values statement



Practice Asking the Questions

Figure 1. Required Demographic Questions		
1. Please describe your gender in any way you prefer:		
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3. Are you transgender? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐ I don't know what this question is asking ☐ I don't want to answer		
4. Please describe your sexual orientation or sexual identity in any way you want:		
5. How do you describe your sexual orientation or sexual identity? (check all that apply) □ Same-gender loving □ Same-sex loving □ Lesbian □ Gay □ Bisexual □ Pansexual □ Straight (attracted mainly to or only to other gender(s) or sex(s)) □ Asexual □ Queer □ Questioning □ Don't know □ Not listed. Please specify: □ □ I don't know what this question is asking □ I don't want to answer		

https://www.oregon.gov/oha/EI/REALD%20Documents/DRAFT-SOGI-Recommendations.pdf



Why are you asking/how do I answer this?

Suggested Response Rationale These questions help us identify what healthcare needs People may not understand why the you may have. We ask these questions of everyone. information is being collected. The suggested You may always decline to answer or talk about it more response may help them understand how the data will be used to improve quality of care with the provider. overall. I can't tell you how to answer the question. You should You should not make assumptions about the "correct" answer for any patient. Suggesting answer however you are most comfortable answering or however you identify. If you are uncomfortable they talk about it more with the provider will answering the question, you may decline to answer. You give them the opportunity to explore the can also talk more about it with your provider. question in the privacy of the exam room.

You can also ask the patient if there is anything about the question you can clarify for them.

Can't you tell by looking at me?

Suggested Response We don't want to assume anything about how people identify or how they want to describe themselves. If you don't identify with any of the choices, you can choose "Not Listed" or "Decline to Answer". People's identity can change over time. We ask these questions routinely to make sure we treat all people with respect throughout their lives. Reiterating that everyone is asked these questions periodically will assure the patient you are not making assumptions about them based on their appearance.



I'm offended...

Suggested Response	Rationale
I hear your concerns about these questions. You are welcome to decline. We ask these questions of everybody to help ensure everyone has access to services to meet their needs.	Patients may find these questions intrusive or too personal. Patients may have fears about their information being used to target them in some way. The suggested response may help ease their mind.
Anything you do share with us is private and confidential.	



Activated Emotions

The participant's responses indicate the person is triggered by the questions (e.g., becoming emotional). *Acknowledge their feelings* or experiences, then *refocus on what is happening* in the here and now. Also, you can *shift to factual questions* or take a break. Examples of things you might say:

Reflecting on their experience:

- I see that you're not happy with these questions. Please answer the questions you feel comfortable answering at this time.
- I hear you saying these questions are not appropriate. May I offer you some more information?
- It sounds like you are getting upset, would you like me to move on to another question.
- I am hearing some tension in your voice, would you like to go to a different section. We can always return to these questions later.

Acknowledge & message: I think I may have asked a question you're not comfortable with. It's 100% your choice to answer it or not; we ask everyone the same questions.

Refocus on what is happening: I understand these question may bring up some questions/concerns for you. I encourage you to discuss your concerns with (x person depending on the type of concern mentioned).

Shift to less personal questions: Let's move on to some other questions and later we can come back to these questions...



Collecting SOGI Data From Minors



Collecting Gender Identity Data from Minors

- Collecting SOGI data from minors helps normalize people of any age thinking and communicating about their identities
 - Can give young people language to describe and understand their experiences
- Age appropriate questions
 - Young children (under age 8 or 9): open ended questions about gender, limit check-box style responses
 - "Are you a boy? Are you a girl? Are you both? Are you something else? Does it change?"
 - Be okay with unexpected answers! Collecting SOGI data is as much a health intervention as it is a way to gather useful data.
 - Adolescents (over age 12) can use adult SOGI data collection questions/tools
- Consider who is in the room; children may be reluctant to provide SOGI data if an unaware or unsupportive person (family member, friend, teacher, etc.) are present.



Collecting Sexual Identity Data from Minors

- While children can become aware of their romantic or sexual orientation from a very young age, it is not recommended to ask about sexual orientation prior to the onset of puberty
 - As a general rule, don't ask about sexual orientation until age 12
- Adolescents (age 12+) can use adult SOGI questionnaire
- Your practice may want to know where a child is in development of romantic or sexual feelings
 - This is not a required part of SOGI data collection, but can be useful to some practices
- Consider who is in the room;
- When collecting data about sexual orientation from minors, use similar privacy
 protection practices to when you collect information about other sensitive topics such as
 mental health, substance use, sexual behavior, etc.



Collecting SOGI data from parents/caregivers of minors

- Parents/caregivers can only reliably report on assigned gender, observed behaviors, and what their child has told them.
 - Parent report data is less reliable than data collected directly from the minor
- For young children: "what should we know about your child's gender?"
- Parents/caregivers may misrepresent their child's SOGI data for a host of reasons
 - Fear for child's safety
 - Unaware
 - Unsupportive
- Use similar privacy protection protocols to discussing a minor's sexual behavior, substance use, or mental health.
- When collecting data, we should have a way to indicate from whom the data is collected



Tool to indicate who data was collected from

Collected on a form

Q1.1: Who is filling out this form?

- The Patient/Subject
- A Parent/Caregiver
- Not Listed (please specify): _____

If Patient/Subject, go to Q2
If Parent/Caregiver or Not listed, go to Q3
If form is filled out online, Q1 coded as "Online," Q 1.1 included in form.

Q2: Who was present with the patient/subject when the data was reported?

- Patient/Subject was alone
- Parent/Caregiver
- Not listed (please specify):
- ② Unknown

Q3: Was the patient/subject present when the data was reported?

- ? Yes
- ? No
- Unknown

Collected in person (by clinical staff or interviewer)

Q1: Data reported by

- Patient/Subject
- Parent/Caregiver
- Not listed (please specify):
- 2 Unknown

If Patient/Subject, go to Q2

If Parent/Caregiver or Not listed, go to Q3

If form is filled out online, Q1 coded as "Online," Q 1.1 included in form.

Q2: Who was present with the patient/subject when the data was reported?

- Patient/Subject was alone
- Parent/Caregiver
- ? Not listed (please specify):
- ? Unknown

Q3: Was the patient/subject present when the data was reported?

- ? Yes
- ? No
- Unknown

Video: From the front desk to the provider



Clinical Staff

Example of a positive interaction: Talking with a parent and child about gender identity.



Final Thoughts



Avoiding Assumptions

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

- <u>Don't assume</u> 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 your clients are heterosexual and cisgender (not transgender)
- Be open to broader definitions of family and learn what a person defines as positive supports in their lives.



Things to Remember...

- Living as one's authentic self is important to well being
- When something is asked in a routine way, people are more likely to respond
- Don't make assumptions, always ask with respect
- Remember that people may not want SOGI information recorded
- The goal is to create inclusive environments of respect and use data to improve health outcomes



This is a Journey

- This is a journey both for us as individuals, and the systems in which we work
- Data collection is one piece of achieving health equity
 - Building inclusive environments
 - Addressing bias and stigma
 - Updating policies, practices, and procedures to support all people





Thank you!

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VIEW MORE SOGI RESOURCES AT ORAETC.ORG/SOGI





TEN STRATEGIES

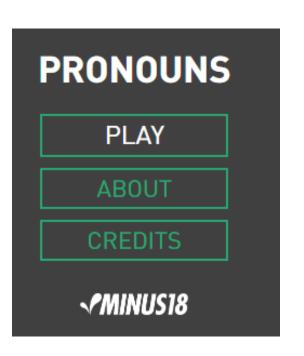
for Creating Inclusive Health Care Environments for LGBTQIA+ People

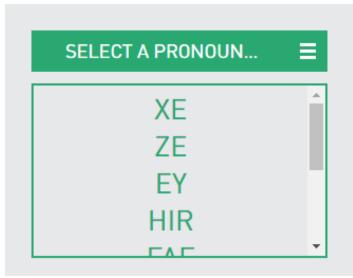
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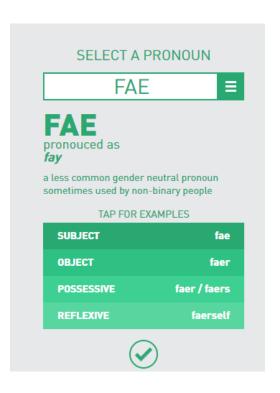
https://www.lgbtqiahealtheducation .org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/05/Ten-Strategies-for-Creating-Inclusive-Health-Care-Environments-for-LGBTQIA-People-Brief.pdf

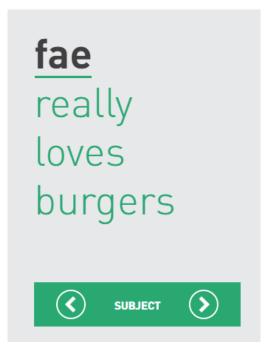


Pronoun Practice









https://www.minus18.org.au/pronouns/





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