



# New Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Questions:

## Information for Patients



**Thank you for taking the time to complete these questions.** If you have additional questions, we encourage you to speak with your provider.



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**We recently added new questions about sexual orientation and gender identity to our registration forms.**

Our health center thinks it is important to learn this information from our patients. Inside are some frequently asked questions about why we are asking these questions and how the information will be used.

### Q: WHY AM I BEING ASKED ABOUT MY SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY?

Every patient has unique health needs. Research shows that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people have health needs that differ from the rest of the population. They also experience higher rates of certain health issues compared to others. Learning about sexual orientation and gender identity will help us to deliver appropriate health services and culturally sensitive care to LGBT patients as well as all of our patients.

### Q: WHAT IS GENDER IDENTITY?

**Gender identity** is a person's inner sense of their gender. For example, a person may think of themselves as male, as female, as a combination of male and female, or as another gender.



### Q: WHAT DOES TRANSGENDER MEAN?

Transgender people have a gender identity that is not the same as their sex at birth.

- **Transgender man (FTM)** describes someone assigned female at birth who has a male gender identity
- **Transgender woman (MTF)** describes someone assigned male at birth who has a female gender identity
- **Genderqueer** describes someone who has a gender identity that is neither male nor female, or is a combination of male and female.

### Q: WHAT IS SEXUAL ORIENTATION?

**Sexual orientation** is how a person describes their emotional and sexual attraction to others.

- **Heterosexual (straight)** describes women who are emotionally and sexually attracted to men, and men who are emotionally and sexually attracted to women.
- **Gay** describes a person who is emotionally and sexually attracted to people of their own gender. It is most commonly used when talking about men.
- **Lesbian** describes a woman who is emotionally and sexually attracted to other women.
- **Bisexual** describes a person who is emotionally and sexually attracted to people of their own gender and people of other genders.

### Q: HOW DO I CHOOSE THE CORRECT INFORMATION?

There are no right or wrong answers. If you don't find an answer that fits, you can choose "Something else" or "Other," or you can talk with your provider.

### Q: WHO WILL SEE THIS INFORMATION?

Your provider(s) will see this information, and it will become part of your medical record. In addition, a few other staff will have access to this information. Your information is confidential and protected by law, just like all of your other health information.

### Q: WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO SHARE THIS INFORMATION?

You have the option to check the box "Choose not to disclose." Later, your provider may ask you these questions privately during your visit. You can choose whether to share this information at that point, and/or you can ask your provider more questions.

### Q: HOW WILL THIS INFORMATION BE USED?

Your provider(s) will use this information to help meet your health care needs. In addition, gathering this information from all patients allows the health center to see if there are gaps in care or services across different populations. Learning this tells us if we need to improve the care we give to our patients.