



HEALTH EQUITY WEEK 2023

Health Equity Week 2023 Tip Sheet | Friday, April 7

Health Equity For LGBTQ+ Communities

What does it mean to be LGBTQ+?

LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, and more) refers to how some individuals identify their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Sexual orientation is how a person identifies their emotional, physical, and sexual attraction to others. Gender identity is a person's sense of their own gender, which may or may not correspond with their birth sex.

Everyone has both a sexual orientation and gender identity, not just LGBTQ+ people.

Why is it important to think about LGBTQ+ people and health equity?

We know that LGBTQ+ people experience discrimination and mistreatment in our communities and are an underserved population in the health care system. As a result, LGBTQ+ patients may have negative experiences in healthcare or have poorer health outcomes than non-LGBTQ+ people.

Penn Medicine is committed to providing the best patient- and family-centered care to all patients, regardless of sex, gender identity or expression, or sexual orientation. It is important to consider all aspects of our patients' identities in our care.

What can you do?

- Never assume a patient's gender or sexual orientation.
- Ask patients questions using inclusive language and ask them their pronouns or how they would like to be addressed.
- In situations where you are unsure, seek out support and resources for learning. Contact the [Penn Medicine Program for LGBTQ Health](#) with questions.

Learn more:

- Visit the Penn Medicine Program for LGBTQ Health website [here](#).
 - View the Gender Affirming Care Modules:
 - Introduction to Serving Penn Medicine's Transgender Community [here](#).
 - Your Role in Serving Penn Medicine's Gender Diverse Community [here](#).
 - Watch [this video](#) on how to create an LGBTQ+ friendly environment.
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