

Gathering new information

Geisinger recently added questions about sexual orientation and gender identity to our intake process, as well as a question about preferred name to our registration process.

At Geisinger, we believe it is important to learn this information because accepting and understanding each patient is the basis of quality care. Learning about the sexual orientation and gender identity of our patients will help us deliver appropriate health services and culturally sensitive care to each individual.

Cultural competence

We believe it is important to provide culturally competent care to each of our patients. Geisinger is committed to:

- Ensuring that respect and inclusion are foundational to our policies, operations and services
- Promoting respect for diversity throughout Geisinger
- Cross-cultural training and continuous learning to eliminate health disparities and to provide the best care and care experience for every patient — every time



What if I have more questions?

You can reach out to our Diversity and Inclusion office:

diversity@geisinger.edu

570-214-5162

Geisinger

geisinger.org

Geisinger

New sexual orientation and gender identity questions

Information for patients



Sexual orientation and gender identity

Are you unsure about the terms *sexual orientation* and *gender identity* and how they apply to you? Here's some basic information.

Sexual orientation describes a person's sexual or emotional attraction to other people. Some examples of sexual orientation include:

- **Heterosexual (straight):** Refers to people who are attracted primarily to members of the opposite sex or gender (e.g., women who are sexually or emotionally attracted to men, and men who are sexually or emotionally attracted to women).
- **Gay:** Refers to people who are attracted primarily to members of their own gender (e.g., men who are sexually or emotionally attracted to other men). It is most commonly used when talking about men, but can be used when talking about women.
- **Lesbian:** Refers to women who are primarily sexually or emotionally attracted to other women.
- **Bisexual:** Refers to people who are sexually and emotionally attracted to people of their own gender **and** people of other genders.

Gender identity describes an individual's internal perception and experience of their own gender. A person may think of themselves as male, as female, as a combination of male and female, or as another gender. Some examples of gender identity include:

- **Cisgender:** Refers to a person whose sex assigned at birth and gender identity match.
- **Transgender:** Refers to a person whose sex assigned at birth and gender identity do not match. A transgender person lives as a member of a gender other than that assigned at birth.
 - **Transgender man** describes someone who was assigned female at birth, but who has a male gender identity.
 - **Transgender woman** describes someone who was assigned male at birth, but who has a female gender identity.
- **Genderqueer:** Refers to a person who does not identify with either male or female, or who identifies as a combination of male and female.

How is Geisinger collecting sexual orientation and gender identity information?

There are multiple ways that Geisinger will be collecting this information.

- 1) The front desk staff will ask your preferred name when you come for your appointment.
- 2) Your care provider will ask you a few questions when you are in a private setting (i.e., not at the front desk).

What if I don't want to share this information?

You have the option to not disclose your sexual orientation and gender identity. When your care provider asks, you can choose whether to share your sexual orientation and gender identity. You may answer the questions or you may say "I prefer not to answer."

How do I choose the correct information?

There are no right or wrong answers. If you don't know the answer, you can talk to your provider.

Who will see this information?

Your care providers will see this information. It will become a part of your medical record. Your information is confidential and protected by law, just like all of your other health information.

How will this information be used?

Your providers will use this information to help meet your healthcare needs. This information will also help us determine if there are gaps in your care or services that need to be addressed. Learning about the sexual orientation and gender identity of our patients will tell us if we need to improve the care we provide to our patients.

