2S
See Two-Spirit

Ace
See Asexual

AFAB
See Assigned female at birth

Affirmed name
See Name used

Agender
adjective
Describes a person who identifies as having no gender, or who does not experience gender as a primary identity component.

Ally
verb/noun
To advocate for and support a marginalized community, or to be a person who advocates for and supports a marginalized community.

AMAB
See Assigned male at birth

Anatomical inventory
noun
A structured form that tracks the presence or absence of a patient’s reproductive organs, as well as any surgical history relevant to those organs. The inventory can be integrated into the electronic health record, and can help guide preventive health screenings and post-surgical care plans.
Aromantic
adjective
A sexual orientation that describes a person who experiences little or no romantic attraction to others, and/or little or no interest in forming romantic relationships. Aromantic people may still have intimate relationships.

Asexual
adjective
A sexual orientation that describes a person who experiences little or no sexual attraction to others, and/or little or no interest in having sexual relationships. Asexual people may still engage in sexual activity.

Assigned female at birth
adjective
Female sex assigned to an infant based on physical sex characteristics, such as the appearance of the infant's genitalia and/or sex chromosomes. Abbreviated as AFAB.
See also: Assigned male at birth

Assigned male at birth
adjective
Male sex assigned to an infant based on physical sex characteristics, such as the appearance of the infant's genitalia and/or sex chromosomes. Abbreviated as AMAB.
See also: Assigned female at birth

Assigned sex at birth
See Sex assigned at birth

Bi
See Bisexual

Bigender
adjective
Describes a person who has two gender identities.
**Binary**
noun
Any system that classifies something into two distinct states.
See also: Gender binary

**Binding**
verb
Wrapping the chest tightly to create the appearance of a flatter chest. The most common way for people to bind is by wearing an undergarment called a binder. People may use other materials to bind such as cloth strips or bandages.

**Biphobia**
noun
Discrimination towards, fear, marginalization, and hatred of bisexual people, or those who are perceived as bisexual. Individuals, communities, policies, and institutions can be biphobic.

**BIPOC**
adjective
An acronym for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.

**Bisexual**
adjective
A sexual orientation that describes a person who is emotionally and physically attracted to more than one gender.
See also: Pansexual

**Bottom**
noun
A slang term for genitals and buttocks. Bottom also refers to the receptive partner in anal sex.
See also: Top
Bottom surgery
noun
A slang term for gender-affirming genital surgery.
See also: Top surgery

Chosen name
See Name used

Cis
See Cisgender

Cisgender
adjective
Describes a person whose gender identity aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth, based on societal expectations. The term cisgender is derived from the Latin preposition cis, which means "on this side of," and is the antonym of trans, which means "across" or "beyond."

Cisnormativity
noun
Cisnormativity is the assumption that everyone is cisgender, or that being cisgender is the only "normal" gender identity. Cisnormativity puts pressure on people to conform to binary notions of gender expression and gender identity. Cisnormativity can manifest as cissexism, the biased belief that cisgender identity is the superior gender identity. Individuals, communities, policies, and institutions can perpetuate cisnormativity and cissexism, and thus marginalize transgender and gender diverse people and communities.

Cissexism
See Cisnormativity
**Coming out**

*verb*

The process of discovering and accepting one's **sexual orientation** or **gender identity** (coming out to oneself), and the process of sharing one's sexual orientation or gender identity with others (coming out to friends, family, etc.). Coming out occurs at various points throughout one's life.

**Conversion therapy**

*noun*

The discredited and harmful practice of trying to forcibly change a person's **sexual orientation**, **gender identity**, or **gender expression**.

**Deadname**

*verb, noun*

The harmful practice of calling a **transgender** or **gender diverse** person by their name assigned at birth, instead of the **name they use** and want to be called (also known as their chosen or affirmed name). Deadnaming is a form of **misgendering**.

**Differences of sex development**

*noun*

A range of variations in primary and secondary sex characteristics that do not fit into binary notions of female or male bodies. Variations may involve sex chromosomes, external genitalia, gonads, hormone production, hormone responsiveness, and/or internal reproductive organs, and may be identified prenatally, at birth, during puberty, or later in life. Some people with these variations consider the term **intersex** more acceptable than differences of sex development.

*See also:* [Intersex](#)

**Drag**

*noun*

The theatrical performance of gender in creative ways.

**DSD**

*See* [Differences of sex development](#)
Enby
See Non-binary

GAS
See Gender-affirming surgery

Gay
adjective
A sexual orientation describing people who are primarily emotionally and physically attracted to people of the same gender identity as themselves. Commonly used as an umbrella term for "not straight."

Gender affirmation
noun
An umbrella term for the range of actions that transgender and gender diverse people may undertake to live in greater alignment with their gender identity and/or gender expression, and thus thrive as their authentic selves. A person may affirm their gender identity or expression through social, legal, medical, or surgical means. What gender affirmation looks like for every individual is unique and based on what is personally affirming, what feels safe to do, and what is accessible and available.

Gender binary
noun
The belief that there are only two genders (female/girl/woman and male/boy/man).

Gender diverse
adjective
An umbrella term describing people who have gender identities and/or gender expressions that go beyond the gender binary of female/girl/woman or male/boy/man.
**Gender dysphoria**

noun
Distress experienced by some people whose gender identity does not align with their sex assigned at birth based on societal expectations; or distress experienced when a person's gender identity and/or gender expression is not affirmed. The degree and severity of gender dysphoria is highly variable among transgender and gender diverse people.

**Gender expansive**

adjective
An umbrella term describing people whose gender identity or gender expression goes beyond the gender binary.

**Gender expression**

noun
The ways in which people present their gender identity to others, such as through gait, mannerisms, voice, dress, and hairstyle. Cultural and historical contexts influence how people interpret and express gender identity.

**Gender fluid**

adjective
Describes a person whose gender identity is not fixed. A person who is gender fluid may always feel like a mix of more than one gender, but may feel more aligned with a certain gender some of the time, another gender at other times, both genders sometimes, and sometimes no gender at all.

**Gender identity**

noun
A person's inner sense of being a girl/woman/female, boy/man/male, both, neither, or beyond the gender binary.
Gender role
noun
A set of societal norms dictating what types of behaviors are considered acceptable, appropriate, or desirable for a person based on their actual or perceived gender. These roles change with time, culture, context, and interpersonal relationships.

Gender-affirming care
noun
The provision of health services to support a person's process of living in alignment with their gender identity. Services may include gender-affirming hormone therapy and/or gender-affirming surgeries.

Gender-affirming chest surgery
noun
Surgeries to reduce, construct, and/or reconstruct the chest to be more aligned with a person's gender identity. Gender-affirming chest surgeries are often referred to as 'top surgeries.' Types of chest surgeries include:

- breast augmentation
- breast construction
- mammoplasty
- mastectomy
- chest contouring
Gender-affirming genital surgery
noun
Surgeries to remove and/or construct genitals and/or internal reproductive organs to be more aligned with a person's gender identity. Gender-affirming genital surgeries are often referred to as 'bottom surgeries.' Types of genital surgeries include:

- Clitoroplasty (creation of a clitoris)
- Hysterectomy (removal of the uterus; may also include removal of the cervix, ovaries, and fallopian tubes)
- Labiaplasty (creation of inner and outer labia)
- Metoidioplasty (creation of a masculine phallus using testosterone-enlarged clitoral tissue)
- Oophorectomy (removal of ovaries)
- Orchiectomy (removal of testicles)
- Penectomy (removal of the penis)
- Phalloplasty (creation of a phallus)
- Scrotoplasty (creation of a scrotum and often paired with testicular implants)
- Urethral lengthening (to allow voiding while standing)
- Vaginectomy (removal of the vagina)
- Vaginoplasty (creation of a neo-vagina)
- Vulvoplasty (creation of a vulva)

Gender-affirming hormone therapy
noun
The clinical provision of estrogen, androgen blockers, or testosterone to promote changes in the body that align with a person's gender identity.

Gender-affirming surgery
noun
Surgeries to help align the body with a person's gender identity. Types of surgeries include chest and genital surgeries, facial surgeries, body sculpting, and hair removal.
See also: Gender-affirming chest surgery, Gender-affirming genital surgery
Genderfluid
See Gender fluid

Genderqueer
adjective
Describes people whose gender identity goes beyond the gender binary.

Heteronormativity
noun
Heteronormativity is the assumption that everyone is heterosexual, or that being heterosexual is the only "normal" sexual orientation. Heteronormative social systems incentivize conforming to the behavior and appearance of heterosexuality. Heteronormativity can manifest as heterosexism, the biased belief that heterosexual identity is the only valid sexual orientation. Individuals, communities, policies, and institutions can perpetuate heteronormativity and heterosexism, and thus marginalize queer people and communities.

Heterosexual
adjective
A sexual orientation that describes women who are primarily emotionally and physically attracted to men, and men who are primarily emotionally and physically attracted to women.

Homophobia
noun
Discrimination towards, and fear, marginalization, and hatred of people who are or perceived to be of diverse sexual orientation, such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or pansexual people. Individuals, communities, policies, and institutions can be homophobic.

Hormone replacement therapy
See Gender-affirming hormone therapy
HRT
See *Gender-affirming hormone therapy*

**Intersectionality**

noun
This concept was developed by legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw to describe the unique experiences of Black women who face the compounding factors of both racial and gender discrimination. Intersectionality is the idea that a person's various identities, particularly marginalized identities, interconnect and cannot be understood in isolation. It is important for health care providers to understand the whole person, including all of their privileged and marginalized identities.

**Intersex**

adjective
Describes a range of variations in primary and secondary sex characteristics that do not fit into binary notions of female or male bodies. Variations may involve sex chromosomes, external genitalia, gonads, hormone production, hormone responsiveness, and/or internal reproductive organs, and may be identified prenatally, at birth, during puberty, or later in life. Some people with an intersex variation choose to label their *gender identity* as intersex. People with intersex variations are typically assigned a female or male sex at birth; in a few jurisdictions, an infant may be assigned intersex at birth. Another medical term for intersex is *differences of sex development*.

**Lesbian**

adjective, noun
A *sexual orientation* describing a woman or *non-binary* person who is primarily emotionally and physically attracted to women.

**LGBTQIA+**

adjective
An acronym for *lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual*, and all sexually and *gender diverse* people. Examples of terms represented by the "+" include: *pansexual*, omnisexual, *gender fluid, non-binary, Two-Spirit*, and many more terms.
Men who have sex with men
	noun
A category used in public health research to describe cisgender men who engage in sexual behavior with other cisgender men, regardless of how they identify their sexual orientation. Abbreviated as MSM.
See also: Women who have sex with women

Minority stress

noun
Chronic stress faced by members of stigmatized minority groups, such as sexual and gender minority people. Minority stress is caused by external, objective events and conditions, expectations of such events, the internalization of societal attitudes, and/or concealment of one's sexual orientation or gender identity. Minority stress is compounded when a person holds multiple marginalized identities.

Misgender

verb
To refer to someone in a way that does not affirm that person's gender identity; for example, by using incorrect pronouns or by deadnaming.

MSM

See Men who have sex with men

Name used

noun
The name a person goes by and wants others to use in personal communication, including when that person's insurance or identification documents lists a different name. The terms "name used," "affirmed name," or "chosen name" are recommended over "preferred name."

NB

See Non-binary
Neopronouns
See Pronouns

Non-binary
adjective
An umbrella term for gender identities that go beyond the gender binary of female and male. Non-binary people may refer to themselves as non-binary, and/or may use a range of identity terms, such as: agender, bigender, genderqueer, and gender fluid. Often abbreviated as NB or enby.

Open relationship
noun
Describes a relationship between intimate partners who consensually agree to non-monogamy.

Organ inventory
See Anatomical inventory

Outing
verb
Involuntary or unwanted disclosure of another person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Pangender
adjective
Describes a person who has multiple gender identities.

Pansexual
adjective
A sexual orientation describing a person who can be emotionally and/or physically attracted to people of any gender identity or gender expression.
See also: Bisexual
Polyamorous

adjective
Describes a sexual and/or romantic relationship that includes three or more people. People may consider being polyamorous part of their sexual orientation, or a key part of how they approach forming romantic relationships.

Preferred Name

See Name used

Pronouns

noun
Pronouns are words used in place of a person's name. Examples of pronouns are she/her/hers, they/them/their, he/him/his. Neopronouns are new pronouns that people may use to affirm their gender identity; examples include: xe/xem/xyr and ze/hir/hirs. Some people use their name instead of pronouns.

Queer

adjective
An umbrella term describing sexual orientations and gender identities that go beyond heterosexual/straight and cisgender. Any LGBTQIA+ person may identify as queer. Some people use the term queer to reflect the fluidity and complexity of sexual orientation and gender identity. The term "queer" was historically used to slander LGBTQIA+ people, but has been reclaimed by many as a term of pride.

Questioning

adjective
Describes uncertainty about, or the process of exploring, one's sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Same gender loving

adjective
A sexual orientation term used by some people in place of gay or lesbian.
**Same-sex attracted**

adjective
Describes the experience of a person who is emotionally and/or physically attracted to people of the same gender. Used most commonly by people who live in religious communities that are not accepting of LGBTQIA+ identities.

**Sex**

See *Sex assigned at birth*

**Sex assigned at birth**

noun
The categorization of an infant as female, male, or intersex, based on the appearance of the infant's genitalia and/or sex chromosomes.

**Sexual orientation**

noun
How a person experiences their physical, emotional, and romantic attachments to other people.

**SGL**

See *Same gender loving*

**SOGI**

noun
An acronym for sexual orientation and gender identity. Sometimes the acronym includes an "E" for gender expression.

**SOGIE**

See *SOGI*

**SSA**

See *Same-sex attracted*
Straight
See Heterosexual

Structural stigma
noun
Societal conditions, policies, and institutional practices that restrict opportunities and resources for oppressed and marginalized groups.

Top
noun
A slang term for the chest. Also refers to the insertive partner in anal sex.
See also: Bottom

Top surgery
noun
Slang term for gender-affirming chest surgery.
See also: Bottom surgery

Trans
See Transgender

Trans feminine
adjective
Describes a person who was assigned male at birth and identifies with femininity to a greater extent than with masculinity.

Trans man
noun
A man who was not assigned male at birth but whose gender identity is boy/man/male.
See also: Transgender, Trans masculine
Trans masculine
adjective
A person whose gender identity is man/male and who was assigned female sex at birth.

Trans woman
noun
A person whose gender identity is woman/female and who was assigned male sex at birth.
See also: Transgender, Trans feminine

Transfeminine
See Trans feminine

Transfemme
See Trans feminine

Transgender
adjective
An umbrella term for people whose gender identity does not align with the sex they were assigned at birth, based on societal expectations.

Transition
See Gender Affirmation

Transmasc
See Trans masculine

Transmasculine
See Trans masculine
Transphobia
noun
Discrimination towards, fear, marginalization, and hatred of transgender and gender diverse people or those perceived as transgender or gender diverse. Individuals, communities, policies, and institutions can be transphobic.

Transsexual
adjective
A term used in the late 20th century to describe people who have gone through the process of medical gender affirmation. While the term transsexual has largely been replaced with transgender, transsexual is still an important identity term for some members of the community, especially those born before 1980.

Tucking
noun
A technique to reduce the appearance of a bulge and create the appearance of a flatter crotch area by positioning genitals in a particular way and using tape, tight shorts, or specially designed undergarments.

Two-Spirit
adjective
Describes a person who embodies both a masculine and a feminine spirit. This is a culture-specific term used among some Native American, American Indian, and First Nations people. Abbreviated as 2S.

Women who have sex with women
noun
A category used in public health research to describe cisgender women who engage in sexual behavior with cisgender women, regardless of how they identify their sexual orientation. Abbreviated as WSW.
See also: Men who have sex with men

WSW
See Women who have sex with women