

Barriers LGBTQIA+ Individuals Face in Healthcare

LGBTQIA+ Individuals & Providers¹

8% of LGBTQIA+ patients said that healthcare providers **refused to see them** because of their actual/perceived sexual orientation.

9% of LGBTQIA+ patients said that a doctor or other health care provider used **harsh or abusive language** when treating them.

23% of transgender patients said that health care providers **intentionally misgendered** them or used the wrong name.

29% of transgender patients said a doctor or other health care provider **refused to see them** because of their actual or perceived gender identity.



Advancing Kidney Health Equity²

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE

1.

Affirm standard practices for collecting sexual orientation and gender identity data on all patients.

2.

Utilize additional tools to estimate GFR more precisely (e.g., 24-hour urine creatinine and urea measurements and measured iothalamate/iohexol clearance) if there is clinical ambiguity regarding the use of a female sex coefficient.

3.

Assess eGFR at baseline before initiation of gender-affirming therapy.

4.

Engage multidisciplinary teams (e.g., endocrinology, psychology, social work, and other SGM affirming care experts) whenever complex decisions regarding gender-affirming hormone therapy occur.



EDUCATION

Continuous education on **inclusive language and culturally humble best practices** (e.g., recording and using a patient's pronouns and demonstrating signage and informational materials for CKD/transplant education that are inclusive at dialysis facilities and transplant centers).



POLICY

Kidney care professionals can advocate for and implement **non-discrimination policies** that explicitly prohibit bias due to sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, and gender.



RESEARCH

Include populations with a **range of sexual and gender identities** (including individuals on gender-affirming hormone therapies) to ensure measurement optimization and validation of kidney function.

Abbreviations: LGBTQIA+, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual; SGM, sexual and gender minority

References:

- Mirza, S. A. A., & Rooney, C. (2022, August 23). Discrimination prevents LGBTQ people from accessing health care. Center for American Progress. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/discrimination-prevents-lgbtq-people-accessing-health-care/>
- Mohottige, D., & Lunn, M. R. (2022). Advancing LGBTQ+ Kidney Health Equity, *Kidney News*, 14(3), 19-20. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from https://www.kidneynews.org/view/journals/kidney-news/14/3/article-p19_10.xml

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