



Best Practices: Electronic Medical Record Data Collection on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI)

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people face bias, discrimination, and barriers to equal and inclusive health care. Often times these barriers are created because of lack of information or understanding by medical staff. In a 2011 survey by One Colorado, Invisible: The State of LGBT Health in Colorado, 67% of LGBT people and 72% of transgender people reported that their medical providers assumed they were heterosexual. In the same survey, 50% of LGBT people report that their provider has never asked about their sexual orientation. While collecting this information may seem intrusive, it is crucial. An up-to-date EMR can protect LGBTQ people from experiencing shame and embarrassment caused from mis-naming, misgendering, and having to explain a partner or relationship status. In an emergent medical situation, an updated EMR can streamline necessary care and help inform the emergency physician on what exams and procedures may be necessary. Data collection and electronic medical record (EMR) recommendations are below.

The EMR should include spaces for a patient's: sexual orientation, gender identity and sex assigned at birth as a two-part question, chosen name, legal name, and gender pronouns. This information can be collected before the patient visit through an online portal or in a secure space during registration. The most inclusive practice is to simply leave blanks for the patient to fill in with their identity descriptors. Although, providing a list of checkboxes plus a fill-in-the-blank option is also acceptable. If the checkbox method is used, under each of the questions should be several varied options to ensure an inclusive and medically thorough document. For example:

Fill-in-the-blank method:

My name is: _____ My legal name is: _____
My gender identity is: _____ My sex assigned at birth is: _____
My sexual orientation is: _____
My gender pronouns are: _____

Checkbox method:

My current gender identity is _____
Alternatively, you may choose from the following options:

- Male
- Female
- Transgender Female/Transgender Woman
- Transgender Male/Transgender Man
- Gender Neutral/Non-binary
- Two-spirit
- Genderqueer/Gender Fluid
- Intersex
- Decline to answer



University of Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus
LEADS Program

My sex assigned at birth is _____

Alternatively, you may choose from the following options:

- Male
- Female
- Intersex
- Not designated on birth certificate
- Decline to answer

My pronouns are _____

Alternatively, you may choose from the following options:

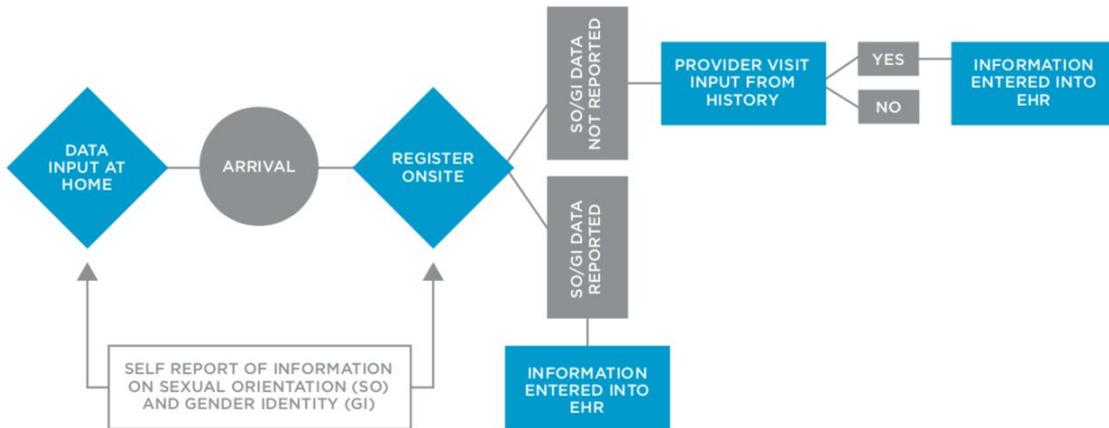
- He/him/his
- She/her/hers
- They/them/theirs
- Ze/hir

My sexual orientation is _____

Alternatively, you may choose from the following options:

- Straight
- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Pansexual
- Queer
- Asexual
- Questioning
- Decline to answer

Whether this information is entered by the patient at home or the medical staff onsite, it should be updated in the electronic medical record so that thorough and inclusive medical care can always be the standard. See a model on how to create a simple workflow to include new information on the following page.



For more detailed information on Electronic Medical Record SOGI data collection, please visit:

- [Guidelines and Tips for Collecting Patient Data on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#)
- [Focus on Forms and Policy: Creating an Inclusive Environment for LGBT Patients](#)
- [Collecting Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Data in Electronic Health Records](#)