



# LGBTQ HEALTH CARE BILL OF RIGHTS

**In New York City, it is illegal to discriminate on the basis of a person's sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression in public accommodations, including in health care settings.**

## **You have these rights when seeking health care services in New York City:**

1. Right to be treated with dignity, respect and professionalism in *all* health care settings by *all* providers, staff members and volunteers
2. Right to receive compassionate, judgment-free and comprehensive care that is mindful of your sexual orientation, sexual behavior, gender identity and gender expression. This right applies to all health services, with a particular emphasis on the following:
  - 2a. Primary care
  - 2b. Emergency care
  - 2c. Sexual health care, including preventive services; risk and harm reduction counseling; and testing and treatment for HIV, sexually transmitted infections, viral hepatitis and HPV-related cancers
  - 2d. Gender transition-related care
  - 2e. Reproductive health care and family planning
  - 2f. Mental and behavioral health care
  - 2g. Care following trauma, including care after hate violence, sexual violence and intimate partner violence
  - 2h. Alcohol and drug use evaluation, counseling and treatment
3. Right to have respectful discussions with providers about your health and health care needs, including your sexual history, current sex life, sexual pleasure and relationships
4. Right to have your gender identity and gender expression recognized, affirmed and documented, including:
  - 4a. Staff members using your self-designated name and pronouns, and mirroring the language you use to describe your body
  - 4b. Access to paper and electronic forms and medical records that use your self-designated name, pronouns and gender marker
  - 4c. Access to single-sex facilities consistent with your gender identity and gender expression
5. Right to clear explanations of providers' requests for your personal health information, including with whom the information may be shared, and the right to withhold that information
6. Right to clear explanations of all medical procedures and risks; right to choose or refuse any treatment and to refuse to participate in research without putting your treatment at risk
7. Right to access health-related coverage and benefits without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression
8. Right to choose who will make medical decisions for you if you are unable to do so; and, for minors, the right to have your wishes and best interests included in these decisions
9. Right to decide who may and may not visit you if you are admitted to a health care facility
10. Right to privacy and confidentiality

**These rights apply to all New York City health care settings in which medical and other social support services are offered, including hospitals; emergency rooms; urgent care centers; clinics; physicians', nurse practitioners' and physician assistants, offices, nursing homes, and long-term care facilities; and community-based organizations. These rights apply to all New York City residents and visitors receiving care within the five boroughs.**

**For more information, visit [nyc.gov/health/lgbtq](https://nyc.gov/health/lgbtq).**

If you believe you have been mistreated or denied care or services because of your sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, call 311 or 718-722-3131 to file a complaint with the New York City Commission on Human Rights.

Reprinted with permission from the New York City Department of Health