IMPLEMENTING

GENDER-NEUTRAL TERMINOLOGY

Using assumptive or gendered terms for pronouns, relationships, or bodies in health care can be harmful to patients because it reinforces stereotypes around gender expression and identity. Until the HCP has had a chance to establish patient consent around terminology, consider using gender-neutral terms to cultivate an inclusive environment for your patients of all gender identities.

Instead of this...



- Both sexes
- Biological sex
- Man, woman
- He/him/his, she/her/hers



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Try this!

- All sexes or all gendersAssigned sex at birth
- · Patient, individual, person, adult
- · They/them/theirs





- · Husband/father/dad
- Motherhood/fatherhood
- Brother/sister
- Boy/girl/son/daughter



- Spouse/coparent/partner/ birth partner/nonpregnant parent/nonpregnant partner
- Parenthood
- Sibling(s)
- Child/baby/newborn/infant





- · Women's health
- Pregnant/birthing woman
- Breastfeeding
- Doula
- Midwife



- · Reproductive health
- Pregnant/birthing person
- · Lactation/nursing
- · Birth assistant/labor coach
- Birthworker/birth work



