

While there is a glossary of terms listed as appendix A in the Standards of Care Version 7 WPATH acknowledges in the document that the terminology in the area of healthcare for transsexual, transgender and gender-nonconforming people is rapidly evolving; new terms are being introduced, and the definitions of existing terms are changing. WPATH further acknowledges that these terms may be defined differently in different cultures, communities and contexts.

WPATH remains open to new terminology that will further illuminate the experience of members of this diverse population and lead to improvement in healthcare access and delivery.

Following is a list of terms that are not yet listed in the Standards of Care, they are however currently being used and shaped. We share this list below at this conference to encourage edits and discussion and to illustrate that many terms are not ideal but are adopted by many people in an effort to make themselves understood. WPATH intends only that these concepts are comprehensible in order to facilitate the delivery of quality health care.

Thank you to Julie Graham LMFT for putting together the information below.

Definitions

Language is the clumsy tool we use to represent a vast and elegant universe of experience and being. This list of definitions is not comprehensive and is intended to create a somewhat common language to promote communication and deeper discussion. It is also open to change.

Our understanding of gender is outpacing our ability to document it with language. We are in the midst of an evolution and are constantly growing and deepening our understanding of gender as we attempt to represent it better through language.

There will be words created and used and then discarded as we develop nuance and deeper understanding. And people use a range of words with a range of meanings that work for them but not for the next person over. "Queer" or "Transvestite" are examples of words that evoke different responses based on how the listener understands the word. Interpretation can vary by generation, culture, and profession. This emphasizes the need to understand the meaning of and to use the language of clients and not criticize them for their use of some identity labels.

Finally, definitions can be clinical, philosophical, practical, and theoretical and we can never separate out the language from the context within which it is used, making broad attempts to define somewhat meaningless.

Everyone has a sex, a gender identity and a sexual orientation or preference.

Intersex

“Intersex is a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn’t seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male.” (from ISNA) These may be physically obvious at birth or they may be genetic or hormonal. Medically, the phrases Differences of Sexual Differentiation or Disorders of Sexual Differentiation are frequently used. There are social, political and personal meanings in the choice of the use of these terms.

Gender

A system of classification that ascribes qualities such as masculinity or femininity to people, words, and objects. Gender expectations vary by culture and time.

Gender binary

A cultural construct that ascribes to the belief there are only two genders, and these match the sexes male and female.

Non binary gender

A gender that is neither solely male nor female. It could be both in varying degrees, fluid or a gender unattached to the poles of male and female.

Gender expression or gender presentation

Gender expression is the way a person expresses their gender identity. They may be doing this for themselves or to communicate their gender to others. This would include how a person, looks, dresses, cuts their hair.

Gender Incongruent

Individuals for whom gender identity differs from sexual anatomy, another term for transgender preferred by some people.

Non-transgender

Individuals who are not transgender/gender incongruent. A term for transgender preferred by some people. Cisgender means "normal" and it amplifies the minority status of the transgender community. Whereas, transgender/non-transgender levels the playing field.

Cisgender

The counterpart of transgender. **A person** whose gender identity and expression match up with the cultural and social expectations of the sex they were assigned at birth. (Woman, feminine and female; Man, masculine male)

Many people are dissatisfied with this term, either because it creates a new binary or because cisgender is normative.

Trans* with or without the asterisk

Trans was hoped to be inclusive of transgender, transsexual, gender non-conforming people as well as agender and intersex people. It is short hand that came from the use of internet search engines. Sometimes shorthand is expedient and sometimes it can feel constricting to people. The asterisk denoted expansiveness to some and it means questionable, doubtful or footnoted.

Two-spirit

This is a modern term used by indigenous people in North America.

There is not a simple unified definition. For some it means having both a male and a female side or a male and female spirit or masculine and feminine traits and for others it embraces all LGBT indigenous people. Some people identify two spirit as a third gender.

Masculine of Center

Gender non-conforming masculine people. It is also a social movement in un-oppressive masculinity for people of color. (inclusive of masculine lesbians and queer women, stud, AG, macha, butch, etc.)

Bigender

A person with two gender identities. Either simultaneously or at different times.

Neutrois

Neutrois is a non-binary gender. For some it is agender or a neutral gender. People may feel genderless.

Pangender

A person whose identity includes all genders.

Sexual orientation

To whom we are sexually, emotionally, and erotically attracted. Sexual orientation is generally fixed, but women are thought to be more fluid. Sexual orientation can change once a person begins to take hormones. Some common words used for sexual orientation are gay, lesbian, straight, asexual, bisexual, heterosexual, homosexual, single gender loving, asexual and queer. Preference and orientation can be charged words for people. Some people have a sexual preference and most have a sexual orientation.

People who are transgender, transsexual or gender non-conforming can have any sexual orientation or preference.

Asexual

A person who does not feel sexual desire or sexual attraction to any group of people. Like bisexuality, it is an enduring trait and not a temporary phase.

Bisexual

People who are attracted to members of *either* genders or sexes.

Pansexual

People who are attracted to people of *all* genders.

Skoliosexual

People who are attracted to transgender people.

Queer

Some people use queer to denote that they are not heterosexual or that they are in the inclusive umbrella of LGBT. Other people see themselves as queer related to gender identity and sexual orientation/preference. Queer exists in reaction to the desire to create categories and boxes and labels. It was also reclaiming a slur directed at LGBT people in the 50s and 60s.

Endocrine Therapy for Transgender Adults in British Columbia: Suggested Guidelines

Physical Aspects of Transgender Endocrine Therapy

Marshall Dahl, M.D., Ph.D., FRCPC.* Jamie

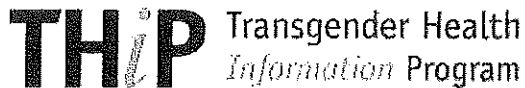
L. Feldman, M.D., Ph.D.† Joshua

Goldberg‡

Afshin Jaberl, B.Sc. (Pharm), R.Ph.§

First released January 2006 Revised

and Updated April 2015



*2015 Guidelines supported by the Transgender Health Information Program
at Vancouver Coastal Health*

*2006 Guidelines developed collaboratively by
Transcend Transgender Support & Education Society
and
the Transgender Health Program at Vancouver Coastal Health
with support from
the Canadian Rainbow Health Coalition's Rainbow Health – Improving Access to Care Initiative*

* Department of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada

† Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA

‡ Transgender Health Program, Vancouver, BC, Canada

§ Reach Community Health Centre, Vancouver, BC, Canada

** Department of Sexual Medicine, University of British Columbia/Vancouver Hospital, Vancouver, BC, Canada

*DISTRIBUTED AT WPATH TRAINING, 11/4 - 11/6 2015,
CHICAGO, IL*