

# Modernizing gender, sex, and sexual orientation information practices in digital health systems

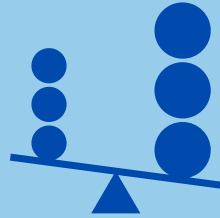


## MAJOR CHALLENGE WITH EXISTING CANADIAN DIGITAL HEALTH SYSTEMS

Sex and gender are used interchangeably in current digital health systems. There is lack of recognition of possible differences between a person's sex assigned at birth and their gender identity.

## WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

### CURRENT DIGITAL HEALTH SYSTEMS REINFORCE INEQUITIES



Continual use of the wrong pronouns or an incorrect name may discourage respectful and trusting relationships with patients.

Patients may not receive appropriate screening or tests that match with their organs.

Patients may be misdiagnosed due to an incomplete health history.

Test results may be thrown out when digital health systems incorrectly categorize them as mismatched samples.

### ACTIONS TO CREATE GENDER-AFFIRMING DIGITAL HEALTH SYSTEMS



Include pronouns and name used as standard fields within digital health systems.

Base clinical decisions on anatomy rather than sex or gender categories

Provide training and education on culturally safe information practices across all organizational levels.

Develop policy and practice guidelines on the use and sharing of gender, sex, and sexual orientation data across different healthcare contexts.

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