



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

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.

For more information,
visit nyc.gov/health/lgbtq.

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.

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