

<p><b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION MONITORING INFORMATION STANDARD</b> <b>Recording Sexual Orientation and Trans Status</b></p>
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### The Sexual Orientation Monitoring Information Standard

In 2017, LGBT Foundation launched a good practice guide to monitoring sexual orientation. This resource provided advice on implementing the newly launched Sexual Orientation Monitoring (SOM) Information Standard. This Information Standard provides the mechanism for recording the sexual orientation of patients and service users across all health services and Local Authority social care providers in England.

The Information Standard for sexual orientation monitoring (SCCI2094) was published in October 2017 by NHS Digital and NHS England. An Information Standard is a document used across the health and social care system to help collect and process information in a consistent way.

The Information Standard was commissioned by NHS England and developed by LGBT Foundation working with NHS Digital, the Department of Health, Public Health England and a cross-system group with representation from leaders across health and social care as well as organisations representing the workforce.

This Information Standard provides the mechanism for recording the sexual orientation of all patients and service users aged 16 years and over. It is applicable across all health services and Local Authorities with responsibilities for adult social care in England. However, the Standard can be used as good practice in organisations from all sectors and for all age groups, demonstrating a commitment to appropriately and comprehensively monitor the sexual orientation of staff and service users. To read the Sexual Orientation Monitoring Standard full specification [www.england.nhs.uk/publication/sexual-orientation-monitoringfull-specification](http://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/sexual-orientation-monitoringfull-specification).

The Information Standards development team consulted with the national SNOMED CT team and the NHS Data Model & Dictionary Service at NHS Digital to ensure that SNOMED CT codes are compatible with the question set for this Standard. SNOMED CT <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/terminology-and-classifications/snomed-ct> is a structured clinical vocabulary for use in an electronic health record, it gives clinical IT systems a single shared language. All NHS healthcare providers in England must now use SNOMED CT for capturing clinical terms within electronic patient record systems.



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APPENDIX B**

<b>Recording Sexual Orientation and Trans Status</b>
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**The following question should be used to monitor sexual orientation:**

**Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?**

1. Heterosexual or Straight
2. Gay or Lesbian
3. Bisexual
4. Other sexual orientation (not listed)

**Non-responses/ not know are coded as follows:**

- U. Person asked and does not know or is not sure
- Z. Not stated (person asked but declined to provide a response)
- 9. Not known (not recorded)

Classification		Description
#	Narrative	
<b>1</b>	Heterosexual or Straight	Classifications 1-3 are those which people are most likely to be familiar with, and are intended to simplify the question and answer.
<b>2</b>	Gay or Lesbian	Classifications 1-3 are those which people are most likely to be familiar with, and are intended to simplify the question and answer. Classification 2 is 'gay or lesbian' as this category will include some women who identify as gay rather than lesbian. Analysts will need to cross-tabulate gender with sexual orientation in order to understand the different responses of different groups within LGB.
<b>3</b>	Bisexual	Classifications 1-3 are those which people are most likely to be familiar with, and are intended to simplify the question and answer. Analysts will need to cross-tabulate gender with sexual orientation in order to understand the different responses of different groups within LGB.
<b>4</b>	Other Sexual Orientation (not listed)	Classification 4 allows the individual to identify as other than heterosexual/straight, lesbian, gay or bisexual, including but not limited to asexual or queer (estimated to be a small minority of non-heterosexuals). Where it is feasible to collect and analyse free-text data, organisations should include an option here allowing respondents to identify their own sexual orientation.
<b>U</b>	Person asked and does not know or is not sure	Classification U allows recording where an individual does not know or is not sure, consistent with terminology in the Data Dictionary used by the health and social care system.
<b>Z</b>	Not stated (person asked but declined to provide a response)	Classification Z allows the individual not to disclose this information, as is their right.
<b>9</b>	Not Known (not recorded)	Classification 9 is not intended to be visible to the patient or healthcare professional but is needed to account for missing data in analysis, i.e. where there is no record of sexual orientation. Categories U, Z and 9 are designed to record different data, and should not be merged as one 'non-response' category.

## How to ask about gender identity and trans status

As with sexual orientation, it is very important that questions on gender identity and trans status are asked in the correct way. Our recommended question and answer format for monitoring trans status has been agreed as best practice by LGBT Foundation, CliniQ and Action for Trans Health with input from trans communities and the National LGB&T Partnership.

These questions are in line with the HIV and AIDS Reporting System (HARS) questions on trans status and gender identity, for more information about the HARS question see:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/816919/GUMCAD\\_STI\\_Surveillance\\_System-Clinical\\_guidance\\_July-2019.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/816919/GUMCAD_STI_Surveillance_System-Clinical_guidance_July-2019.pdf)

### **Gender identity and trans status should be asked as a two-step question as follows:**

#### **Question one: gender identity**

**Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?**

1. Woman [including trans woman]
2. Man [including trans man]
3. Non-binary
4. In another way

**The following codes can be used for non-responses:**

- Z. Not stated (PERSON asked but declined to provide a response)
- X. Not known (not recorded)

#### **Question two: trans status**

**Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?**

1. Yes
2. No

**The followings codes can be used for non-responses:**

- Z. Not stated (PERSON asked but declined to provide a response)
- X. Not known (not recorded)

There is currently no national trans status monitoring information standard, although there is ongoing work to develop a standardised approach and to update IT systems so that trans status can be properly recorded. We as a Trust should endeavour to record this information where possible and raise when this is not.

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Guidance used to create this document and extra information taken from the LGBT Foundation's "If we're not counted, we don't count" 2021 document. [Available here on our Trust Intranet](#) or via the LGBT Foundation ([lgbt.foundation](http://lgbt.foundation))

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