

B.C. GSSO Standard & Guidance: 3.3 Release

Sex-Gender Working Group (SGWG) August 26th,
2025

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Territorial Acknowledgement





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The Ministry of Health would like to acknowledge that we are calling from the unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. We respectfully acknowledge the diversity of all Indigenous nations, communities, cultures and languages across the province and country.

Background

- The Health Information Standards (HIS) team published version 3.3 of the GSSO Standard and Guidance on July 31st .
- 15 SNOMED CT CA concepts were added as part of the Value Set to document Negative Experiences in healthcare.
- HIS collected feedback from the May 27th working group to assign each concept a formal definition.

SNOMED CT CA Browser- Negative Experience Concepts

 Victim of discrimination (finding)  

SCTID: 135331000146104

135331000146104 | Victim of discrimination (finding) |

en Victim of discrimination (finding)
en Victim of discrimination

Interprets → Behavior observable

Children (4)

-  Political discrimination (finding)
-  Religious discrimination (finding)
- ▼    Victim of gender identity discrimination (finding)
 -    Victim of discrimination related to cisgender man identity (finding)
 -    Victim of discrimination related to cisgender woman identity (finding)
 -    Victim of discrimination related to nonbinary gender identity (finding)
 -    Victim of discrimination related to transgender man identity (finding)
 -    Victim of discrimination related to transgender woman identity (finding)
- ▼    Victim of Indigenous gender identity discrimination (finding)
 -    Victim of discrimination related to Indigiqueer gender identity (finding)
 -    Victim of discrimination related to Two-Spirit gender identity (finding)
- ▼    Victim of sexual orientation discrimination (finding)
 -    Victim of discrimination related to asexual orientation (finding)
 -    Victim of discrimination related to bisexual orientation (finding)
 -    Victim of discrimination related to female homosexual orientation (finding)
 -    Victim of discrimination related to male homosexual orientation (finding)
 -    Victim of discrimination related to pansexual orientation (finding)

B.C. GSSO Standard & Guidance



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British Columbia
Health Information Standards

Gender, Sex and Sexual Orientation
(GSSO) Health Information Standard &
Guidance

Version 3.3
2025-07-31

GSSO Health Information Standard & Guidance (Version 3.3)

2025-07-31

10.0 Part Five: Documenting Negative Experiences

The underlying principle of this standard is the promotion of health equity by addressing DHS design that contributes to bias in healthcare. Negative experiences such as discrimination are the result of institutional and unconscious bias that act as barriers to care because they can result in avoidance of healthcare when someone needs it most. Discrimination in health care is defined as "...negative actions or lack of consideration directed towards an individual or group based on preconceived notions about their... sexual orientation" or other factors. (25) Fundamentally, we believe that when providers have access to specific information about a person's gender such as their pronouns, their name used, and their gender identity, negative experiences of healthcare related to misnaming, misgendering and accidentally outing patients can be avoided, and diverse people can access preventive and affirming care. In this part of the standard, we outline examples of concepts that represent negative experiences in healthcare.

Note: when gender expression is considered to play a role in a patients reported negative experiences or worries related to gender, it can be documented as needed in encounter notes with terms such as "feminine," "gender-neutral", "masculine", "gender-conforming" or "gender-nonconforming."

Tables 10.0.1, 10.0.2, and 10.0.3 lists the SNOMED CT common options for discrimination related to sexual orientation, gender identity, and Indigenous gender identity.

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<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/practitioner-pro/health-information-standards/gsso-standardguidance-v33.pdf>

Negative Experience Concepts *NEW*

Table 10.0.1 – Common Options for Sexual Orientation Discrimination

Code System	SCTID	Preferred Term(s)	Description
SNOMED CT CA	92091000087107	Victim of sexual orientation discrimination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A person who has experienced negative actions or lack of consideration from others based on preconceived notions about their sexual orientation.
SNOMED CT CA	92171000087107	Victim of discrimination related to female homosexual orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A person who has experienced negative actions or lack of consideration from others based on preconceived notions about their female homosexual orientation.
SNOMED CT CA	92181000087109	Victim of discrimination related to male homosexual orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A person who has experienced negative actions or lack of consideration from others based on preconceived notions about their male homosexual orientation.
SNOMED CT CA	92141000087104	Victim of discrimination related to bisexual orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A person who has experienced negative actions or lack of consideration from

B.C. GSSO Value Set



A	B	C	D	E	
Subset Tab Name Gender Used					
Tab					
Description This subset includes value options for Gender Used.					
System	Code System URI / ID	Code	Concept	Display (English)	Description
SNOMED CT CA	2.16.840.1.113883.6.96	446141000124107	Identifies as female gender (finding)	Woman / Girl	Persons who report their gender used as a woman or girl. U
HL7	http://terminology.hl7.org/CodeSystem/v3-NullFlavor	UNK	unknown	Unknown	Persons whose administrative gender is not known at the tir
Subset Tab Name Gender Identity					
Tab					
Description This subset includes common, expanded and exceptional value options that represent a person's Gender Identity.					
System	Code System URI / ID	Code	Concept	Display (English)	Description
SNOMED CT CA	2.16.840.1.113883.6.96	446141000124107	Identifies as female gender (finding)	Woman / girl	Person identifies as a woman or a girl. Usage note: common
HL7	http://terminology.hl7.org/CodeSystem/v3-NullFlavor	UNK	Unknown	Unknown	Known to be unknown.
Subset Tab Name Health Services Sex & Gender Marker (HSSGM)					
Tab					
Description This subset includes value options that represent a person's Health Services Sex or Gender Marker (Recorded Sex or Gender).					
System	Code System URI / ID	Code	Concept	Display (English)	Description
LOINC	http://loinc.org	LA13504-8	Female or Woman	F	A value which corresponds to female or female gender (i.e. w
HL7	http://terminology.hl7.org/CodeSystem/v3-NullFlavor	UNK	Unknown	Unknown	Known to be unknown.
Subset Tab Name Negative Experiences					
Tab					
Description This subset includes value options that represent a person's negative experiences due to their					

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/practitioner-pro/health-information-standards/gss0-value_sets-v12.xlsx

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< > Licensing **Data Dictionary** Gender Used Gender Identity HSSGM **Negative Experiences** Personal Pronouns Sex at Birth Se ... + :

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/practitioner-pro/health-information-standards/gss0-value_sets-v12.xlsx

B.C. GSSO Infographic

Gender, Sex and Sexual Orientation Health Information Standard and Guide



Purpose...

Address socioeconomic determinants of health.
Improve health outcomes.
Provide respectful and culturally safer care.
Modernize information practices.
Align with human rights legislation.



Digital Health Systems

Gender and sex are **different concepts**.
Most **Health Information Systems conflate sex and gender** by using a single sex/gender field for both administrative and clinical uses.
Constrains functionality and limits effective use.



Affirming Communication

Name Used is specified by the patient and used for clinical interactions.
Pronouns are linguistic tools; part of gender expression; use them when referring to people.
Gender Identity: man, woman, nonbinary, more...



Gender Used and Sex at Birth

Health Services Sex or Gender is for single field systems.
Sex at Birth is based on chromosomal, anatomical, hormonal features.
Gender Used is what the patient wishes to be used for identification and obtaining services.



Sex Parameter for Clinical Use (SPCU)

Designed to enable clinicians to specify context to support decision making by alerting them to specific context such as sex-related anatomic or surgical entries, medication statements or other sex-related artefacts.



Guidance

Sex and gender are **different concepts**.
Gender Used may be appropriate for clinical care.
Gender Identity must be identified by the patient.
Gender data should be displayed by **default**. SPCU provides **necessary context** when required.

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/practitioner-pro/health-information-standards/2024-09-12_gss0_one-page_infographic_final.pdf

What's next for maintenance?

1. Explore concepts with more context:
 - Negative Experiences in the healthcare system related to sexual orientation and/or gender identity.
 - Negative Experiences online related to sexual orientation and/or gender identity.
 - Patient worries about personal safety related to sexual orientation and/or gender identity.
 - Clinical finding related to misgendering or deadnaming.
2. Explore adding synonyms to each of the concept's description.

What's next for maintenance?

3. Ongoing collaboration with our partners at CIHI to ensure alignment of the jurisdictional standard.



**Canadian Institute
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Thank you!

Feedback, questions or comments can
be sent to HLTH.HISSupport@gov.bc.ca



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