



Canada Health Infoway

Gender, Sex and Sexual Orientation Modernization

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Background

The background features a minimalist design with three main color areas: a large white area on the left, a dark blue curved shape on the top right, and a red triangular shape on the bottom right. The shapes are separated by clean, white lines.

Infoway Sex-Gender WG

- Purpose: to modernize gender, sex and sexual orientation information practices in Canada.
 - Co-chairs include Francis Lau, Nathan Lachowsky, Kelly Davison and Karen Courtney.
- Infoway as convener / collaborator / facilitator.
- Ongoing since 2019.
- Meeting held once per month on fourth Tuesday.
- Finalized proposed Action Plan in early 2021. Summary document has been translated.
 - Seven aims, including terminology modernization, research and best practices.
- Specified harmonized GSSO terminology requirements in June, 2021.
- Work on other Action Plan aims continues.
- GSSO Terminology Workstream established in late 2021.

Selected Research Publications

1. [An environmental scan of sex and gender in electronic health records: analysis of public information sources](#)
2. [A rapid review of gender, sex, and sexual orientation documentation in electronic health records](#)
3. [Transphobia, encoded: an examination of trans-specific terminology in SNOMED CT and ICD-10-CM](#)
4. [Culturally competent gender, sex, and sexual orientation information practices and electronic health records: rapid review](#)
5. [Toward an inclusive digital health system for sexual and gender minorities in Canada](#)
6. [Gender harmony: improved standards to support affirmative care of gender-marginalized people through inclusive gender and sex representation](#)
7. [Transgender data collection in the electronic health record: Current concepts and issues](#)
8. [HL7 International informative document: Gender Harmony Model – Release 1](#)
9. [A proposed action plan to modernize GSSO information practices in Canadian EHRs](#)



Gender Harmony Project

- Gender Harmony Model has five data elements with proposed values
- Next ballot for informative document (cross-paradigm work) May 2022
- Existing concepts for some model elements
- SGWG Terminology Workstream is working on CA requirements

Requirements-in-common

Gender identity / Gender	GSSO	AHS	RHO	TCLHIN	TCBC	CIHI	StatCan	Gov
Female		√	√	√		√		√
Female/Woman/Girl					√			
Female gender								
Woman	√							
Male		√						
Male/Man/Boy								
Male gender								
Man	√							
Cisgender								
Cisgender woman	√							
Cisgender man	√							
Cisgender person, n.e.c.								
Gender diverse								
Another gender								
Nonbinary gender								
Intersex	√	√						
Two-Spirit	√	√						
Nonbinary gender	√	√						

Source: Harmonized GSSO Value Options:
Infoway Sex-Gender Working Group (Lau, 2021)

Appendix 1 — Proposed Value Sets

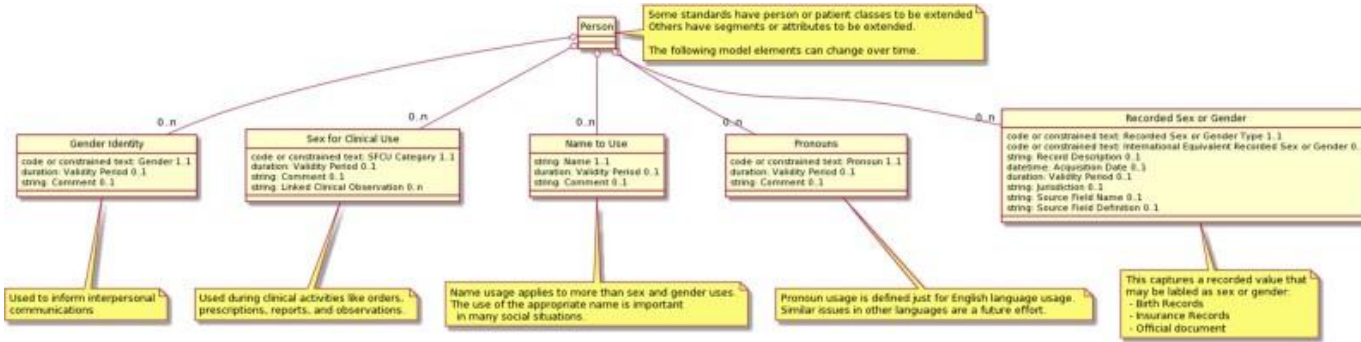
GenderIdentity Value Set

GenderIdentity valueset to be used as a minimum value set, bound extensible so as to allow specific implementations the option to add more choices via a different, expanded value set that incorporates this minimum set.

Term	Definition
Female	Identifying as female. No other criteria are necessary other than identification. “Female” gender identity is consistent with identification as a woman. and This gender role may differ significantly from culture to culture and so there are no standards of femininity or female identification.
Male	Identifying as male. No other criteria are necessary other than identification. “Male” gender identity is consistent with identification as a man. This and gender role may differ significantly from culture to culture and so there are no standards of masculinity or male identification.
Unknown	The person’s gender identity is not known at this time, for any of a variety of reasons. E.g., “was not able to ask” or “person does not want to answer”.
Nonbinary	Having a specific identity which is nonbinary (not within a binary construct of male or female) or having an identity which falls under the nonbinary umbrella (i.e., any or all gender identities which are not female or male).

Source: HL7 International Informative Document: Gender Harmony Model R1, 2021

Person



Gender Identity	Sex for Clinical Use	Name to Use	Pronouns	Recorded Sex or Gender
76691-5	⚠️ 99501-9	?	90778-2	⚠️ 99502-7



Diagram Source: McClure RC, Macumber CL, Kronk C, et al. *Gender harmony: improved standards to support affirmative care of gender-marginalized people through inclusive gender and sex representation* [published correction appears in J Am Med Inform Assoc. 2021 Nov 25]. J Am Med Inform Assoc. 2022;29(2):354-363. doi:10.1093/jamia/ocab196



Request

- There is a need for CA representation at the GHP.
- Cross-paradigm work.
- Messaging expert with knowledge of GHM.



Canada Health Infoway

Thank you!

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