



Inclusive Language Quick Guide for Clinicians

Using inclusive language can help create a respectful clinical environment where gender-diverse individuals feel safe discussing reproductive health and pregnancy planning.

Inclusive communication improves patient engagement, trust, and access to care.

Practical Communication Tips

1. Ask about name and pronouns

- “What name and pronouns would you like me to use?”

2. Avoid assumptions about gender or reproductive goals

- Not all people who can become pregnant identify as women.
- Not all transgender or nonbinary individuals wish to avoid pregnancy.

3. Use gender-neutral terms when appropriate

- Instead of:
 - “pregnant women”
- Consider:
 - “pregnant patients”
 - “pregnant people”
 - “patients who can become pregnant”

4. Use anatomy-based language when discussing care

- Preventive care should be based on organs present, not gender identity.
Examples:
 - Cervical screening for people with a cervix
 - Chest or breast health screening for people with breast or chest tissue

5. Ask about preferred terminology

- Patients may have different preferences for how body parts are discussed.
Example: “Are there words you prefer when we talk about your body or reproductive health?”

Clinical Tip: Inclusive Language Improves Care. Respectful language and inclusive communication can significantly improve patient comfort and willingness to engage in care.