



HOT TOPIC: PRIDE IN PRACTICE - SUPPORTING GPs TO ACHIEVE BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL PATIENTS

Pride in Practice is a service provided by The Lesbian & Gay Foundation to GP practices to support improvements in health outcomes for their lesbian, bisexual and gay (LGB) patients, as well as strengthen their engagement with and understanding of the LGB community.

It publically celebrates GP practices that are delivering inclusive services and supports them to further develop their services through advice, support, resources and training through a practices account manager. Public celebration of inclusive services helps break down 'perceived' homophobia and biphobia within health services. Research has found that 20% of LGB people said that their sexual orientation was a factor in avoiding visiting a GP over the last 12 months (Richardson, Jo. 2010). Furthermore research found that almost a quarter of LGB people were not 'out' to any health professional (NHS Wirral, 2012).

- online access to Pride in Practice compendium
- any patient who receives an STI check or HIV testing at a registered GPP practice can be offered to have their email address passed back to Pride in Practice and they will receive an STI check annual reminder
- a comprehensive GP Practice resource pack
- access to research updates and a dedicated database of LGB peoples' needs and issues
- inclusion in The Lesbian & Gay Foundation's GP Champions list

Benefits

- GPs Practices which register with Pride in Practice demonstrate their on-going commitment towards the local communities that they provide services to
- Registration highlights how GPs are embedding the principles of the Equality Act 2010 and Care Quality Commission guidelines within their practice
- The Lesbian & Gay Foundation have access to LGB patient voices, and their feedback can be fed into GP practices and health services, so that health professionals can make decisions about services based on LGB people's real experiences
- implementing Pride in Practice improves the health outcomes for your lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) patients by ensuring that they feel welcome and included which as a result can lead to cost savings for each practice

The Service

The service includes:

- a dedicated account manager
- support in answering and discussing any LGB issues that may arise throughout the period of registration
- support in developing referral pathways into local LGB support groups, and other relevant services to signpost to
- a helpline call back service for patients that are happy for their telephone number to be passed on (helpline@lgf.org.uk). The lesbian and Gay Foundation will call such patients back within a week to give them more information about its services and signpost to other supporting organisations



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Treating everyone the same = Equal treatment?

Three people go to watch the football. One is very short, one is average height and the other is very tall. There is a wall in front of them. The tall one is fine and can see the game comfortably; the man over average height can see but has to stand on their toes, the very short person can't see anything.

If they were all treated the same and given the same box to stand on the tall man would hit his head on the ceiling, the person of average height could see and the shorter man still wouldn't be able to look over the wall.

What is needed is one big box for the small person, a medium box for the average person and the tall person doesn't require anything.

These three people can't be treated the same, they need to be treated differently.

Patients should be treated no less favourably, not all the same.

Lesbian, gay and bisexual people experience many health inequalities....

- 5% of bisexual men have attempted to take their own life compared to 0.4% of men in general
- 15% of lesbian and bisexual women have never had a cervical screen test compared to 7% of women in general
- Gay men are significantly more likely to develop an eating disorder compared to heterosexual men and lesbians are almost three times more likely to be overweight and over twice as likely to be obese compared to heterosexual women
- Alcohol dependency (over a 12month period) was found to be 1.5 times higher in LGB people compared to their heterosexual peers

For more statistics please visit www.lgf.org.uk/evidence-exchange

For more information about Pride in Practice please contact pip@lgf.org.uk or call 0845 330 30 30.

Follow this link for more information www.lgf.org.uk/for-professionals/pride-in-practice

