



ASPIRE

NEWSLETTER SERIES ON

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROVIDING CARE TO

LGBTQ+ PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

ISSUE 6

Office Design & Layout

Tips for how to best support LGBTQ+ patients:

- ❑ Post LGBTQ+-inclusive signs, flags, or stickers in waiting rooms, exam rooms, and bathrooms.

Tip: Include signs in Spanish (and other language(s) used in communities your practice serves)

- ❑ Offer single occupancy, all-gender bathrooms.

Tip: If this is not possible, post signage that encourages patients to use the bathroom that corresponds with their gender identity and design stalls for maximum privacy.



For more information and resources, access the AAP clinical guidelines: <https://www.aap.org/en/patient-care/lgbtq-health-and-wellness>

“... Walking down the hallway and seeing all the Safe Zone signs there really made me feel comfortable and made me feel able to disclose information.” [1]



In one study, efforts to improve LGBTQ+ inclusivity, such as hanging welcoming signage in exam rooms and waiting areas, resulted in multiple patients and parents expressing gratitude for these changes.

[2]

SOURCES

- [1] Fuzzell, L., Fedesco, H. N., Alexander, S. C., Fortenberry, J. D., & Shields, C. G. (2016). “I just think that doctors need to ask more questions”: Sexual minority and majority adolescents’ experiences talking about sexuality with healthcare providers. *Patient Education and Counseling*, 99(9), 1467–1472. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2016.06.004>
- [2] McKinnish, T., Hunt, C., Weinberg, S., Perry, M., Seashore, C., Gold, S., & Vander Schaaf, E. B. (2022). A Quality Improvement Approach to Enhance LGBTQ+ Inclusivity in Pediatric Primary Care. *Pediatrics*, 150(2), e2021052125. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2021-052125>