

Developed by a workgroup of the Trans Solidarity Project, www.transsolidarity.org, a member of the LI Patient Safety Advisory Council 2010 www.pulseofny.org. For more information call (516) 579-4711.

Androgyne, noun /**Androgynous**, adjective
neither male nor female.

Binding Wrapping the chest or using a pressure garment to flatten breast tissue.

Blend The assimilation into society in one's self-affirmed gender.

Bottom Surgery See Reassignment Surgery.

Cisgender, cissexual People whose gender identity and gender expression align with the birth genitalia.

Clocked When people are not perceived as the gender they are presenting.

Coming Out The process of accepting and telling others about one's hidden gender identity, gender affirmation, or sexual orientation.

Cross-dressers (CD) People who wear clothing, jewelry, and/or make-up not traditionally associated with their anatomical sex, and who generally have no intention or desire to change their anatomical sex.

Drag king/ Drag queen One who cross-dresses primarily for performance or show and who usually does not wish to change their anatomical sex. *DSM-IV: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual.*

Endocrinologist A doctor who specializes in diagnosing and treating hormonal disorders.

Estrogen (E) A female hormone produced by the ovaries. For males, it can be produced in small amounts in the adrenal glands.

FTM / F2M female to male transsexual.

Gender A person's innate sense of self as a man or woman. It may or may not match the assigned sex at birth.

Gender Affirmation Confirmation of one's gender identity.

Gender Identity Disorder (GID): a.k.a gender dysphoria. According to DSM-IV, Gender Disorder is the diagnosis used when a person has (1) a strong persistent cross-gender identification and (2) persistent discomfort with his or her sex or sense of inappropriateness the gender role of that sex, and the disturbance (3) is not concurrent with physical intersex condition and (4) causes clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning. According to DSM-IV, GID Not Otherwise Specified can be used for persons who have a gender identity problem with a concurrent congenital intersex condition. Many people prefer the term "gender dysphoria", thus eliminating the negative connotation of the word disorder.

Gender Expression The external manifestation of a person's gender identity, which may or may not conform to the socially defined behaviors and external characteristics that are commonly referred to as either masculine or feminine.

Gender Identity A person's innate, deeply-felt psycho-logical identification as a man, woman, or something else, which may or may not correspond to the person's anatomy or assigned sex at birth.

Genderqueer Someone who disregards gender boundaries.

Gender Role Refers to the traditional or stereotypical behavioral differences between men and women, as defined by the culture in which they live.

Getting Read See clocked

Harry Benjamin Standards of Care (HBSC) The Harry Benjamin Standards of Care is a consensus opinion on transsexual treatment by medical and psychological professionals. The standards of care are for the people who are in the process of transitioning from one sex to another.

Hermaphrodite Previously used to describe intersex; now considered outdated and insulting to some.

Intersex Refers to individuals born with both male and female genitalia, or genitalia that are not clearly male or female. A spectrum of conditions involving anomalies of the sex chromosomes, gonads, reproductive ducts, and/or genitalia.

LGBTQ An acronym used to abbreviate lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer persons.

Made See clocked

MTF / M2F Male to female transsexual.

Neo-vagina While this is the technical term for when a vagina is surgically created and is suitable for use when having a discussion with another medical professional, it is not a term that should be used with a client during routine gynecological examinations.

Packing Wearing a penile prosthesis or creating the appearance of a penis under clothing.

Passing To be socially perceived in accordance with one's own gender identity rather than one's birth sex.

Queer Originally pejorative for gay, now being reclaimed by some LGBTQ persons as a self-affirming umbrella term. Caution: still extremely offensive when used as an epithet.

Real Life Experiences (RLE) Generally accepted guideline, from the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care for GID that suggest that a client live in their core gender for a period of time (typically one year) as a prerequisite to being eligible for genital confirmation surgery.

Reassignment Surgery (a.k.a Gender Confirmation /Affirmation) Surgical procedure that changes the appearance of one's genital organs from one gender to another. SRS; Sexual Reassignment Surgery

Sex The designation of a person at birth as either "male" or "female" based on their anatomy (genitalia and/or reproductive organs) and/or biology (chromosome and/or hormones).

Sexual Orientation A person's enduring physical, romantic, emotional, and/or spiritual attraction to another person.

SOFFA An acronym that stands for Significant Others, Friends, Family, and Allies of GLBTQ persons.

Stealth When a person has gone through gender transition and does not disclose that fact to others.

Testosterone (T) A male hormone produced in the testes. For women, also present in small amounts produced by the adrenal glands.

Top Surgery Chest reconstruction to either masculinize or femininize.

Tranny, Trans Short for transgender person. Some consider these terms to be derogatory, especially when used by someone who is not transgender.

Transgender An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or gender expression differs from their assigned sex at birth.

Transition The process that people go through as they change their physical appearance to align with their gender identity.

Transman Generally refers to someone who was identified female at birth but identifies and portrays their gender as a male.

Transphobia Dislike of, or discomfort with, people whose gender identity and/or gender expression do not conform to traditional or stereotypical gender roles.

Transsexuals People whose gender identity differs from their assigned sex at birth and often live on a full time basis as a member of the sex opposite of their birth designated sex.

Transvestite (TV) Previously used to describe a cross-dresser; now considered pejorative and outdated.

Transwoman Generally refers to someone who was identified male at birth but who identifies and portrays her gender as female.

Two Spirit People who display characteristics of both male and female genders. Two spirit also means a mixtures of masculine and feminine spirits living in the same body.

Glossary of Transgender Terms



The definitions presented here are meant to be an introductory overview to bring an understanding of commonly used terms in the transgender/transsexual community.

We recognize that the information is neither all encompassing nor all inclusive.

For more information call (516) 579-4711.

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