

The Fenway Guide to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health

2nd edition

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The Fenway Guide to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Health

2nd edition

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Vice President, Publishing: Diane Scott-Lichter

Associate Publisher, Circulation, Licensing and Permissions: Aileen McHugh

Associate Publisher, New Product Development: Thomas McCabe

Books Associate: Charles Graver

Design: Michael Ripca

Composition: Aptara, Inc.

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Printing/binding by Sheridan Books, Inc.

Printed in the United States of America

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

The Fenway guide to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender health/[edited by] Harvey J. Makadon, Kenneth H. Mayer, Jennifer Potter, Hilary Goldhammer. – 2nd edition. p. ; cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-938921-00-1 (alk. paper)

I. Makadon, Harvey J., editor. II. Mayer, Kenneth H., editor. III. Potter, Jennifer, editor. IV. Goldhammer, Hilary, editor. V. American College of Physicians (2003–), issuing body.

[DNLM: 1. Delivery of Health Care–United States. 2. Bisexuality–United States.

3. Transgender–United States.

4. Homosexuality–United States. W 84 AA1]

RA564.9.H65

362.1086'6–dc23

2014024635

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*Visit www.lgbthealtheducation.org for
additional programs and materials on
LGBT health.*

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Preface

In recent years, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people have had a higher profile in public discourse across a wider range of issues than was true even a decade ago. The rationale for focusing on LGBT health as a distinct area of education for health professionals has long been discussed among a relatively small group of LGBT people and allies. However, publication of Healthy People 2020's goals for LGBT health and the Institute of Medicine's report on the "Health of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People" has highlighted the existence of health disparities affecting LGBT communities and the need to urgently address these issues to ensure quality care and health equity for all. The recent implementation of the Affordable Care Act further underscores the importance of taking steps to facilitate affirmative and inclusive access to care for the many LGBT people who will be newly insured. This will mean ending LGBT invisibility in health care and training clinicians about the unique health needs of LGBT communities as well as about the diverse demographics of these communities in terms of race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. We will need to reassure the many people who have lacked access to or avoided care because of previous discriminatory experiences that clinicians are both interested and skilled in caring for LGBT people.

This second edition of the *Fenway Guide* is designed for health care providers, students, and trainees of all disciplines and specialties. Researchers, policymakers, and public health professionals will also find that many of the chapters are useful and relevant to their work. The book is meant to serve as a learning tool for individuals or as a teaching tool for use in a comprehensive LGBT health curriculum. However, each chapter is written so that it can stand alone and be incorporated into a variety of learning contexts. The sometimes differing terminology referencing LGBT people across chapters reflects a real-world diversity of language among people in the community. Ultimately, we seek to facilitate a dialogue with patients about their sexual orientation and gender identity, and offer LGBT patients high quality care in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

For this new edition, we did not include a chapter on Disorders in Sex Development (sometimes referred to as *intersex conditions*), believing this topic is unique and complex and deserves its own textbook. This new edition of the *Fenway Guide* builds on the first edition by including chapters that pay specific attention to emerging LGBT health issues, such as gender identity development in children and adolescents, global LGBT health and

human rights, new standards for comprehensive care of transgender people, and advances in HIV/AIDS prevention, particularly for sexual and gender minorities who are at highest risk. This edition also embodies an enhanced appreciation of the social determinants of health as well as the intersectionality of diverse identities among LGBT people. We hope that this book will fill many gaps in health care education and facilitate the provision of equitable care for all.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank the American College of Physicians for publishing a new edition of this ground-breaking text, and the individuals who have helped us along the way, including Adrianna Sicari, Jeffrey Walter, Scott Lundgren, Ida Bernstein, Ruben Hopwood, Raymond Powrie, Danya and Laura Potter, Joyce Collier, Marc Erickson, and the Shinker-Mayer family. We would also like to gratefully acknowledge Hilary Goldhammer for her work as both a coeditor and developmental editor.

In addition, we could not have done this without the support of the dedicated and inspiring team at The Fenway Institute and the whole Fenway Health family, who provide exceptional primary and behavioral healthcare and other clinical services, who work tirelessly to educate the community and advocate for change to enhance LGBT health care, and who are creating sustainable models of care for sexual and gender minorities and their families.

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