

## Information sheet - for patients

### Prohibition on patient group: sex and gender

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) works in partnership with the National Boards to ensure that Australia's registered health practitioners are suitably trained, qualified and safe to practise. Public safety is our priority.

#### You need to know about a restriction on this practitioner's registration

This practitioner has a restriction on their registration that means **they must not have any contact with patients of the prohibited, assigned sex or gender.**

They also **must not have any contact with anyone of that assigned sex or gender who attends with the patient** (like a parent, partner, child, or support person).

- **Assigned sex** usually means the sex (male or female) a person is given at birth.
- **Gender** includes a person's gender identity, expression or experience; how someone sees themselves, which may or may not match their assigned sex.

**The practice will ask you to confirm your sex or gender**, so they can make sure they are following the restriction correctly.

**If you are just accompanying someone**, like your child or partner, and they belong to the prohibited sex or gender group, the practitioner must not have contact with either of you. The practice will help you find another health practitioner for your appointment.

**The practitioner is not allowed to work** until an approved practice location has been published on their registration on our [website](#).



See our [Prohibition on patient group](#) web page for more information

#### Why might a health practitioner have a restriction like this?

Sometimes we receive complaints about serious misconduct by a health practitioner. These complaints can involve behaviours from inappropriate sexualised comments to criminal sexual assault.

We investigate such complaints to decide what action is needed to keep patients safe. In some cases, we may place this restriction on a practitioner's registration to prevent them from seeing patients of a specific sex or gender.

This is a protective measure used while the complaint is being investigated or while the matter is being dealt with at a hearing. In some cases, the restriction can continue for a longer period if the practitioner is found to pose an ongoing risk.

## We monitor the practitioner's compliance with the restriction

- We make sure the practice location that is approved has strong systems to support compliance and protect the public.
- Staff and senior managers at the location must understand the restriction and know how to follow and support it.
- We may carry out visits of the approved location.
- We review patient logs and billing records, including information from Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).
- We review the practitioner's reports on the patients and support people they have seen to confirm they are following the restriction.
- We may also contact you directly to ask about your visit to the practitioner as part of this monitoring process.

## You can contact us if you have a concern about the practitioner

If you believe a practitioner may not be complying with their restriction, or if something doesn't feel right, you can report your concern to us. You can choose to remain anonymous when you contact us.

- Call us on **1300 419 495**
- Or visit our [website](#) to send an enquiry or make a complaint online

Definitions	
Assigned sex	is a person's anatomical sex characteristics, usually assigned at birth and associated with reproductive systems.
Contact with a patient	includes when someone is consulted, interviewed, examined, assessed, prescribed for, advised or otherwise treated as a patient. This applies whether the contact is in person or on a communication device, directly or indirectly.
Gender	<p>is a social and cultural concept. It is about social and cultural differences in identity, expression and experience as a man, woman or non-binary person.</p> <p>Gender includes the following concepts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• gender identity</li><li>• gender expression</li><li>• gender experience.</li></ul>
Female	refers to an individual who can typically bear young and/or has ovaries and produces ova.
Male	refers to an individual who can typically produce sperm that fertilise the eggs of a female.
Woman or girl	refers to a person who lives and identifies as female even though they might have been assigned a different sex at birth.
Man or boy	refers to a person who lives and identifies as male even though they might have been assigned a different sex at birth.
Sex characteristics	are the physical features, hormones and chromosomes of body development and reproductive systems.