



### Recognize the Barriers

- **Reduced access:** 30% of LGBT+ adults lack a regular health care provider and have low rates of health insurance, making them less likely to access care and utilize preventive services.
- **Fear of discrimination:** Many in the LGBT+ community have had negative experiences with health care providers and don't speak up for fear it will impact the quality of their care.
- **Unmet needs:** Members of the LGBT+ community are more likely to report having unmet medical needs because of cost issues.

### You deserve respectful health care!

To find LGBT+ friendly providers in the area visit:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [cdc.gov/lgbthealth/health-services.htm](https://cdc.gov/lgbthealth/health-services.htm)
- GLMA: [glma.org](https://glma.org)
- OutCare: [outcarehealth.org/outlist](https://outcarehealth.org/outlist)

### Additional Resources

- National LGBT Cancer Network: [cancer-network.org](https://cancer-network.org)
- National LGBT Cancer Project: [lgbtcancer.org](https://lgbtcancer.org)
- American Cancer Society: [lgbthealthlink.org](https://lgbthealthlink.org)

To make an appointment:  
**888-716-WAKE • WakeHealth.edu**



**Atrium Health**  
Levine Cancer

### Office of Cancer Health Equity

Let us know how we can help you!

- Education sessions
- Community outreach
- Cancer navigation that is appropriate to both language and culture

Call **336-713-3665** or email **CancerEquity@WakeHealth.edu** to learn more about the Office of Cancer Health Equity or to schedule an education session.

Follow us:

- @WFCancerEquity
- @WFCancerEquity
- WFCancerEquity

These materials are provided in part by the *Jane Walker Perkinson Memorial Fund*, an endowed fund dedicated to the Office of Cancer Health Equity at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Cancer Center.

To make an appointment:  
**888-716-WAKE • WakeHealth.edu**

**Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist  
Comprehensive Cancer Center**  
Medical Center Boulevard  
Winston-Salem, NC 27157



Atrium Health Levine Cancer is enhanced by our National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist. Of the 1,000+ cancer programs in the U.S., NCI has officially designated just 56, or 5%, as "Comprehensive" for meeting the highest possible standards.



**Atrium Health**  
Levine Cancer

# A QUICK GUIDE TO Cancer in the LGBT+ Community

Office of Cancer Health Equity



### DID YOU KNOW

**Each group under the LGBT+ umbrella  
is at increased risk for cancer.  
Knowing more may save your life.**



**Atrium Health**  
Levine Cancer



## Cancer in the LGBT+ Community

Smoking rates are higher in the LGBT+ community and tobacco use is the leading cause of cancer and death from cancer

Members of the LGBT+ community are at increased risk for HPV related cancers of the cervix, vagina, penis, oral cavity and throat

Screening rates for colon, breast and cervical cancer are lower than the general population, mainly due to barriers related to sexual orientation and/or gender identity or expression

### Cancer in Lesbian and Bisexual Women

- Breast cancer: Lesbian and bisexual women are less likely to receive routine screening mammograms to detect breast cancer and should discuss screening with their provider
- Cervical cancer: Bisexual women are the most likely to have never had a pap test to detect cervical cancer and should discuss screening with their provider

### Cancer in Gay and Bisexual Men

- Anal Cancer: Men who have sex with men have a higher risk of developing anal cancer

## Cancer in the Transgender Community

- Ovarian cancer: Female-to-male transgender individuals are still at risk for ovarian cancer and hormone therapy may increase the risk
- Prostate cancer: Removal of the prostate for male-to-female transgender patients is uncommon so most individuals are still at risk for prostate cancer and should discuss screening with their provider
- Breast cancer: Male-to-female patients who are over 50 and have taken hormones for more than 5 years and female-to-male patients who have had chest surgery may still be at risk for breast cancer and should discuss screening with their provider

## Cancer in People Living with HIV (PLWH)

- PLWH who are not on treatment are at increased risk for certain cancers related to having a weakened immune system such as cervical cancer, lymphoma, and Kaposi's sarcoma
- Even with effective treatment, PLWH have a higher risk of developing certain cancers, including Hodgkin's lymphoma, anal, liver, and lung cancers

Our intention in using the acronym LGBT+ is to be inclusive of the entire rainbow community.

## What Can I Do?



## Screening

Checking for cancer before there are symptoms is called screening. The earlier cancer is found, the more likely it can successfully be treated. Detecting and diagnosing cancer is only effective if patients and providers know what screening is recommended in the LGBT+ community. General screening recommendations include:

|                 | MSM | WSW | MtF | FtM |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| HIV             | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| HPV Vaccine     | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Colon Cancer    | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Breast Cancer   | Yes | Yes | *   | Yes |
| Cervical Cancer | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Anal Cancer     | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |

\*MtF transgender patients can consider screening mammography if age >50 and have taken hormone replacement for >5 years.

Talk to your doctor about your personal history, including anatomy and surgery if applicable, to make sure you are receiving appropriate and individualized screening. Being open and honest with your health care provider may save your life.

To make an appointment:  
**888-716-WAKE • WakeHealth.edu**