

# National Lesbian, Bisexual & Trans Women's Health Week 2018



FAIR ACCESS FOR BETTER HEALTH

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#LBTWOMENSHEALTH18



My partner and I have recently been in contact with quite a few healthcare workers who will literally jump to any conclusion about our relationship, other than that we are partners.

I've really clearly told practitioners that we are partners and yet they have still referred to us as "friends"- this is super invalidating of our relationship.

I have once had a nurse ask if we are sisters and when I said no she looked shocked and replied "But you look so alike!" Firstly, my partner and I look absolutely nothing like each other. Secondly, no amount of insisting that we must be sisters because we look so alike will change the fact that we are partners. Just accept it, apologise and move on.

I have had more than one clinician refer to me as my partner's mum when I've been standing right there! This was really shocking and insulting to me, especially as we are around the same age! But it also makes me wonder why people would rather make some clearly very inaccurate assumptions before accepting that we are partners.

My partner is non-binary and uses they/them pronouns. When talking to healthcare services over the phone regarding them, clinicians will often change their pronouns to "he/him" automatically. This hurts on two levels. They've both ignored my partner's gender identity and made assumptions about my sexual orientation.

So please health care services, leave your heteronormative and cisnormative assumptions behind. Accessing certain healthcare services can be stressful enough as it is, and it just adds to the anxiety when we have to constantly justify our relationships and identities.



Models have been used to protect the story-teller's anonymity