

Wessex Oversight Group - Pride sub-group changes for June 2023

Rationale behind changes

The Pride sub-group of the Wessex Classification and Indexes Oversight Working Group undertook a review of the terminology and classification of items relating to LGBTQ+ people and gender identity.

The sub-group identified that there were terms within the Wessex Classification Scheme that were no longer used or could be considered offensive, derogatory or prejudicial. We referred to relevant sources (including Homosaurus at <https://homosaurus.org/> and LGBTQ+ staff networks) in order to obtain guidance on the most current and appropriate terms to use. As a result of the review some terms have been removed completely (e.g. 'hermaphroditism') and other terms have been updated (e.g. the terms 'sex-reassignment surgery' or 'transsexual surgery' have been changed to 'gender affirming surgery').

Also as part of the process it was found that certain psychiatric and criminal topics were located within the same section as topics relating to sexual orientation and gender diversity. We believed that this perpetuated a stereotype by linking these topics. Therefore psychiatric and criminal topics have been separated and moved away from the topics relating to the LGBTQ+ community (for example, paedophilia and incest have now moved from HQ to WM in the classification schedules).

The Pride sub-group is committed to ensuring that the terms relating to LGBTQ+ people and gender identity are relevant and non-prejudicial. We can be contacted via wessexclassificationscheme@gmail.com if there are other LGBTQ+ or gender identity terms that you have located within the Wessex Classification Scheme that are no longer considered appropriate, or if there are significant terms that you feel need to be added.

New subject headings

ASEXUALITY	HQ305	
CROSSDRESSING	HQ315	
GENDER AFFIRMING SURGERY	WJ715 / WP180	Replaces SEX REASSIGNMENT
GENDER DYSPHORIA	HQ320	MeSH term
GENDER ROLE	HM240	New MeSH term from 2021
HORMONE THERAPY (GENDER)	WK900	
NON-BINARY PERSONS	HQ320	
SAME-SEX MARRIAGE	HQ500-600	

Deleted subject headings

BATTERED WOMEN	Use SPOUSE ABUSE instead
HOMOSEXUALITY, FEMALE	Use HOMOSEXUALITY
HOMOSEXUALITY, MALE	Use HOMOSEXUALITY
MASOCHISM	Could use FETISHISM instead, or consider PARAPHILIC DISORDERS if it relates to non-consensual or non-legal activities, or psychiatric aspects. Otherwise we'd recommend deleting this heading
SADISM	Could use FETISHISM instead, or consider PARAPHILIC DISORDERS if it relates to non-consensual or non-legal activities, or psychiatric aspects. Otherwise we'd recommend deleting this heading
SEX REASSIGNMENT PROCEDURES	Use GENDER AFFIRMING SURGERY instead
SEX REASSIGNMENT SURGERY	Use GENDER AFFIRMING SURGERY instead
SEXUAL AND GENDER DISORDERS	Use more specific alternative terms (e.g. GENDER DYSPHORIA) depending on the content of the item
TRANSSEXUALISM	Use TRANSGENDER PERSONS instead
TRANSVESTISM	Could use FETISHISM instead, or consider PARAPHILIC DISORDERS if it relates to non-consensual or non-legal activities, or psychiatric aspects. Otherwise we'd recommend deleting this heading
VOYEURISM	Could use FETISHISM instead, or consider PARAPHILIC DISORDERS if it relates to non-consensual or non-legal activities, or psychiatric aspects. Otherwise we'd recommend deleting this heading

Classmark deletions

HQ302 Heterosexuality

Classmark additions

New section added to WM schedules – WM300 – 320 Sexual dysfunctions

WM300 Paedophilia	Replaces HQ340
WM305 Adult victims of paedophilia	Replaces HQ345
WM310 Incest	Replaces HQ380
WM312 Victims of incestuous relationships	Replaces HQ382
WM315 Incest between adults	Replaces HQ385
WM320 Fetishism (non-legal or non-consensual)	Replaces HQ350

Note: consensual and legal fetishism remains at HQ350

Classmark moves

HQ340 Paedophilia	Moved to WM300
HQ345 Adult victims of paedophilia	Moved to WM305
HQ380 Incest	Moved to WM310
HQ382 Victims of incestuous relationships	Moved to WM312
HQ385 Incest between adults	Moved to WM315
HQ390 Sex therapy	Moved to HQ570
HQ460 Single people	Moved to HQ519
HQ350 Fetishism (non-legal or non-consensual)	Moved to WM320
Note: consensual and legal fetishism remains at HQ350	
WP136	Moved to WJ712

Wessex Classification and Indexes Oversight Group
Last updated 3rd May 2023