LGBTQ Patient Advocacy through Community

There is an active and thriving LGBTQ community at Dana-Farber that includes patients, staff, and volunteers. This community is anchored by the Dana-Farber LGBT & Friends Employee Resource Group (ERG).

The ERG’s mission is to foster an inclusive and supportive environment at Dana-Farber for people across the spectrums of sexuality and gender, including those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer.

The Dana-Farber LGBT & Friends ERG works to fulfill its mission by:

- **Advocating** for Dana-Farber LGBTQ patients – helping to define and monitor equity and equality for LGBTQ patients and their families

- **Promoting** Dana-Farber Cancer Institute as an ally for LGBTQ patients and families, as well as for Institute staff

- **Increasing** internal awareness and visibility of the LGBTQ community at Dana-Farber

- **Supporting** LGBTQ organizations and efforts within the Greater Boston health care community

Additional Resources

For more information, including patient testimonials, an online resource list, the LGBTQ-friendly clinician and staff directory, and more, please visit [www.dana-farber.org/lgbtq](http://www.dana-farber.org/lgbtq).

Any patient or member of the Dana-Farber community is welcome to reach out to the LGBT & Friends group for advice, support, or questions. For more information, please email dfciask_LGBT@dfci.harvard.edu.

For questions about your care as an LGBTQ patient at Dana-Farber, please contact your care team directly.

For concerns about your experience as an LGBTQ patient at Dana-Farber, please contact Patient/Family Relations at 617-632-3417.

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
450 Brookline Ave.
Boston MA 02215
617-632-3000
[www.dana-farber.org/lgbtq](http://www.dana-farber.org/lgbtq)
At Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, we recognize that the LGBTQ community faces unique challenges and health disparities. Our specialists provide world-renowned, expert cancer care – including for diagnoses that disproportionately affect the LGBTQ community. We work to provide patients of all genders and sexualities with comprehensive, personalized, and compassionate cancer care that addresses each person’s cancer in the context of their lives.

LGBTQ patients are at a higher risk for certain types of cancers, including Kaposi sarcoma, cervical, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Hodgkin lymphoma, lung, liver, anal, and others. As one of the world’s foremost cancer centers treating these types of cancer – and as a leader in providing equitable care and strong advocacy for LGBTQ patients – Dana-Farber is in a unique position to serve the LGBTQ community.

Dana-Farber provides the latest, most innovative treatment available to LGBTQ patients challenged with cancer:

- **world-renowned specialists** who provide comprehensive, personalized cancer care and support
- **clinical researchers** who offer unique clinical trials in the cancers for which LGBTQ patients are at particular risk
- **viral immunology researchers** who lead the field in HIV/AIDS-related research breakthroughs

Dana-Farber is proud to be a leader in providing equitable care and strong advocacy for LGBTQ patients.

**LGBTQ-Friendly Dana-Farber Providers**

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation has regularly recognized Dana-Farber as a Health Equity Index Top Performing Healthcare Facility based on our approach to, and practices for, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community.

An LGBTQ-friendly provider directory can be found at [www.dana-farber.org/lgbtq](http://www.dana-farber.org/lgbtq). It includes an up-to-date listing of providers who have indicated a special interest in treating and caring for LGBTQ patients.

**Policies Supporting LGBTQ Rights and Equity**

Dana-Farber’s commitment to equity and equality for LGBTQ patients is a critical aspect of our Institute’s overall leadership in diversity and patient rights. We deliver on our commitment to treating LGBTQ patients with the same dignity and quality of care that all our patients deserve through policies like those below:

- **Equal Visitation:** Dana-Farber’s visitation policy is focused on creating a welcoming, supportive, and safe environment for our patients, families, visitors, and staff while respecting the health care needs and confidentiality of our patients. A support person is defined as any person present to support the patient during their visit, including same-sex significant others and domestic partners. There is no requirement that the support person be legally related to the patient.

- **Non-discrimination:** Dana-Farber’s “Patient Rights and Responsibilities” states our commitment to serving all patients, and states specifically that this is without regard to sex, marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identity/expression.

- **Diverse workforce:** As an employer, Dana-Farber affirms the right of every qualified applicant to receive consideration for employment, and states specifically that this is without regard to sex, gender identity/expression, or genetic information.

- **Right to self-identification:** Dana-Farber’s electronical medical record provides the option to record sexual orientation, assigned sex at birth, and current gender identity, and staff are trained in how to collect this information appropriately and respectfully.

For more information on these policies, visit [www.dana-farber.org/lgbtq](http://www.dana-farber.org/lgbtq).
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