

1. **Is it mandatory for my husband to be present during a consultation for abortion services?**

**OR**

**Do I need my husband's permission to get an abortion?**

**OR**

**Do I need my father's or brother's permission to get an abortion?**

- a. You have the right to seek abortion services without needing anyone else's permission.
  - b. Any woman who is above the age of 18 years can seek abortion services and does not require the consent or permission of the husband, father or any male guardian.
  - c. According to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act 2021, a woman has the right to make decisions regarding her own reproductive health, including seeking abortion services, without requiring her husband's presence. Only the consent of the pregnant woman is required for an abortion.
2. **Can a gynecologist refuse abortion services based on marital status or age?**
- OR**
- Can the doctor say no to abortion if I am single?**
- OR**
- Can the doctor say no to abortion if I am 26 years old?**
- a. A gynecologist or any doctor cannot say no to an abortion to any woman who is 18 years of age and above.
  - b. A gynecologist or any doctor cannot refuse abortion services to any woman, regardless of her marital status.
  - c. According to the MTP Act, any married, unmarried, divorced, or widowed woman has the right to abortion services.
3. **Do I need the permission of my father to get an abortion?**
- OR**
- Do I need to bring my father along to get an abortion?**
- a. Any woman who is above the age of 18 years does not need anyone's permission to get an abortion. Any unmarried woman above the age of 18 does not need her father's permission or any other male guardian's permission to get an abortion. Only the woman's consent is enough to avail abortion services.
4. **I want to get an abortion. Until when can I get one?**
- In India, under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, abortion is legally permitted up to 20 weeks of pregnancy. However, in some exceptional circumstances, it may be extended to 24 weeks with the approval of two registered medical practitioners.

5. Can a doctor share information about my abortion with anyone else?

OR

Will my abortion information be confidential?

OR

I am afraid that information about my abortion will get leaked. Do I have any protection from this?

- a. According to the Medical Council of India's Code of Ethics and the Right to Privacy, a doctor cannot disclose patient medical information to anyone without explicit consent.
- b. According to the MTP Act, a doctor cannot share information about your pregnancy termination with anyone without your explicit consent.
- c. Your medical information is confidential, and healthcare providers are obligated to respect your privacy.

6. What documents or information can I be asked for to get an abortion?

OR

What documents should I carry with me while going to the doctor?

- a. Please carry any relevant, recent test reports.
- b. If you are visiting a doctor you have consulted with before, it is advised that you carry your past prescriptions.

7. Can my doctor refuse abortion services because of their personal beliefs?

OR

The doctor continues to pressure me into not getting an abortion. He/she keeps telling me I am at the right age to start a family. What should I do?

Under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, doctors are allowed to refuse abortions on conscientious grounds. However, they are also required to provide you with alternative options and referrals to other doctors who may be willing to perform the abortion.

8. Can my doctor refuse to transfer my patient records to another doctor/hospital?

Your doctor is required to transfer your medical records to a different doctor/hospital of your choosing according to the Medical Council of India's Code of Ethics. In the event that they withhold the transfer, it needs to have valid grounds such as outstanding payments, not fulfilling the required process, etc.

9. What should I do if a doctor denies me abortion services without my husband's presence?

OR

My doctor is saying that I need to bring my husband with me to get an abortion.

OR

My doctor keeps saying that I need to bring my father or brother with me to get an abortion.

- a. You have the right to seek abortion services, and you do not need anyone else's permission to terminate your pregnancy.
- b. If a doctor denies you abortion services, you can ask them to share medical reasons for denial of services.
- c. You can share about the MTP Act, 1971 with the doctor, according to which, the doctor cannot deny you services without a valid medical reason and cannot force you to bring your husband or father or brother for availing abortion services.
- d. If a doctor does not give you a valid medical reason and continues to insist on your husband/father/brother coming with you, you can seek a second opinion from another doctor.

**10. I want to file a complaint and take action against my doctor. What can I do?**

**OR**

**Can I file a complaint against my doctor?**

There are multiple routes available to you. You can file a complaint with the grievance redress department of the concerned hospital. In case this doesn't exist/you do not receive a satisfactory response, you can file a complaint with the state medical council as well as with the National Consumer Disputes Redressal platform.

**11. What are my rights as a transgender individual seeking gender-affirming healthcare in India?**

In India, transgender individuals have the right to access healthcare without discrimination. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, recognizes your right to healthcare services, including gender-affirming care. You should not face discrimination based on your gender identity.

**12. Can healthcare providers refuse gender-affirming treatments or services to me based on my gender identity?**

**OR**

**Can a doctor say no to talking to me because I am transgender?**

**OR**

**I went to a doctor. He/she said not to come back again. He/she does not treat transgender. What should I do?**

Any healthcare provider should not refuse treatments or services based on your transgender identity. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act prohibits discrimination, and you have the right to receive respectful and non-discriminatory healthcare services.

**13. Question: What gender-affirming healthcare services are available to transgender individuals in my area?**

Gender-affirming healthcare services may include hormone therapy, gender confirmation surgeries, mental health support, and more. Local LGBTQ+ organizations, healthcare

facilities with trans-inclusive policies, and online resources can help you find available services in your area.

**14. Can I change my gender marker on official documents to match my gender identity, and how does it impact my healthcare access?**

Yes, in India, you have the right to change your gender marker on official documents to match your gender identity. This can positively impact your healthcare access, ensuring you are recognized and respected as your affirmed gender when seeking gender-specific healthcare services.

**15. How can I advocate for myself and address discrimination when accessing healthcare services?**

**OR**

**I feel I am being discriminated against by my doctor because I am transgender**

**OR**

**I feel I am being discriminated against by my doctor because I am a trans man**

**OR**

**I feel I am being discriminated against by my doctor because I am a trans woman**

**OR**

**I feel I am being discriminated against by my doctor because I am a trans person**

**OR**

**My doctor makes fun of me because I am transgender**

To advocate for yourself and address discrimination, you can:

- Familiarize yourself with your rights under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act.
- Document instances of discrimination.
- Communicate openly with healthcare providers about your needs.
- Seek support from LGBTQ+ organizations or legal services if discrimination persists.
- Stay informed about local and national policies supporting transgender rights.

**16. Can a healthcare provider discriminate against me based on my gender?**

No, discrimination based on gender identity is prohibited in India. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 recognizes the rights of transgender individuals, and healthcare providers should not discriminate against you. You have the right to receive respectful and inclusive healthcare services.

**17. What are my rights if a healthcare provider asks intrusive questions about my gender expression?**

**OR**

**My doctor is asking me intrusive questions about my gender. What should I do?**

**OR**

**My doctor is asking me strange questions about my gender. What do I say?**

You have the right to be treated with dignity and respect. Intrusive questions about your gender expression are inappropriate. You can assert your right to privacy and express discomfort with such questions. If the behavior persists, consider filing a complaint with the healthcare facility or seeking assistance from LGBTQ+ organizations.

**18. Can I request a different doctor if I face discrimination or discomfort during appointments?**

Yes, you have the right to request a different healthcare provider if you face discrimination or discomfort during appointments. It's important to prioritize your well-being and seek care from professionals who are respectful and affirming of your gender identity. You can speak with the healthcare facility's administration to arrange a change in providers.

**19. Are there specific laws protecting trans individuals from discrimination in healthcare settings?**

Yes, the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, protects transgender individuals from discrimination, including in healthcare settings. Familiarize yourself with this legislation to understand your rights and potential courses of action if you face discrimination.

**20. How can I file a complaint or report discrimination from a healthcare provider?**

If you experience discrimination, you can file a complaint with the healthcare facility's administration, detailing the incidents and the healthcare provider involved. Additionally, you may consider reaching out to local LGBTQ+ organizations or the appropriate regulatory bodies to report the discrimination and seek guidance on further actions.

**21. Can a gynaecologist insist on HIV testing before providing inoculation or other treatments?**

Generally, a gynaecologist cannot insist on HIV testing without a valid medical reason. In many places, including India, medical practitioners are bound by patient confidentiality and privacy laws. However, it's essential to consider local regulations, and there may be exceptions in certain situations.

**22. What are my rights regarding medical privacy in India?**

**OR**

**Do I have the right to medical privacy?**

**OR**

**Can the doctor share information about my health with anyone?**

In India, patients have the right to medical privacy. Doctors are required to maintain confidentiality about your health information, including HIV status. Exceptions may exist in cases where there is a serious threat to public health or if mandated by specific laws. You can consult with legal professionals or patient advocacy organizations for more detailed

information.

**23. Can I refuse HIV testing if my gynaecologist insists on it?**

Yes, you generally have the right to refuse any medical test, including HIV testing, if you do not consent to it. Your gynaecologist should respect your autonomy and obtain informed consent before conducting any tests. However, it's advisable to discuss your concerns with your doctor and explore alternative options.

**24. What should I do if I feel uncomfortable with my gynaecologist's request for HIV testing?**

If you feel uncomfortable, it's important to communicate openly with your gynaecologist. Share your concerns and inquire about the specific reasons for the request. If the insistence continues and you believe it's unjustified, you may consider seeking a second opinion from another healthcare professional. Additionally, you can consult legal professionals to understand your rights and options.

**25. Are there any laws protecting my privacy when it comes to HIV testing and medical treatment?**

Yes, there are laws protecting your privacy in medical matters, including HIV testing. In India, the HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017 addresses confidentiality and non-discrimination related to HIV testing. Familiarize yourself with this law and other relevant regulations to understand your rights in healthcare settings.

**26. How can I advocate for my right to privacy during medical appointments?**

You can advocate for your right to privacy by clearly communicating your concerns to the healthcare provider. Discuss the necessity of any proposed tests and inquire about the reasons behind them. If you feel uncomfortable, try seeking a second opinion.

**27. Can I seek HIV testing voluntarily without my gynecologist's insistence?**

Yes, you have the right to seek HIV testing voluntarily without your gynecologist's insistence. If you believe it is in your best interest to get tested, you can express your willingness to undergo testing. In such cases, your healthcare provider should respect your decision and provide the necessary support and information.

**28. I am a gay man. My psychiatrist has given me medicines to change my sexual orientation. Is this legal?**

**OR**

**I am a trans person. My doctor is forcing me to get conversion treatment, and I don't want to. What do I do?**

According to the National Medical Commission's directive in 2022 to all State Medical Councils, conversion therapy for queer people has been banned and labelled as professional misconduct under the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquettes and Ethics) Regulations, 2002. The psychiatrist is liable for disciplinary action

upon filing of a complaint. Mental health services and medical practices are also regulated by the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 which emphasizes the rights of individuals with mental illness and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The Act also mandates that mental health professionals obtain informed consent before providing treatment

**29. I feel that my doctor is not listening to me and providing me with the care I ask for because I am trans. What can I do?**

Under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, you are entitled to quality healthcare without discrimination based on your gender identity. Your consent in the treatment is also upheld in this Act. You are also eligible to file a complaint against your doctor under this Act.

**30. I feel forced into taking medication to change my sexual orientation by my doctor? Is this allowed?**

In India, the right to informed consent is accounted for in the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette, and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, and the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. These laws emphasize the importance of obtaining the voluntary and informed consent of patients before initiating any medical treatment or procedure.

**31. I am afraid that my doctor will out me. Am I protected against this?**

**OR**

**Can my doctor reveal my sexual orientation without my consent?**

**OR**

**Can my doctor reveal my sexual orientation to my family without my knowledge?**

**OR**

**Can my doctor leak information about my sex life?**

Patient information is protected within the healthcare system. Doctors are bound to keep patient information confidential and are prohibited from the unauthorized disclosure of patient information, including sexual orientation under the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette, and Ethics) Regulations, 2002.

**32. Can I get my patient records to go through the details of my treatment?**

**OR**

**Do I have access to my patient documentation?**

**OR**

**I want to transfer to a different doctor, can I ask my current doctor for my medical records?**

**OR**

**I want to transfer to a different hospital, can I ask my current doctor for my medical records?**

Yes, you are legally entitled to freely access your patient records and documentation. This

right is recognized under the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette, and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, and the Consumer Protection Act, 2019. Doctors and healthcare professionals are also required to give the necessary documentation within a reasonable timeframe in the format you require.

**33. I want to get a second opinion for my treatment, am I allowed to do this?**

You can surely get a second opinion for your treatment. While there is no specific law or act governing this, the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette, and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, upholds patient autonomy and informed decision-making. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 also reinforces patient autonomy and the right to seek additional opinions or redressal in cases of dissatisfaction with healthcare services.

**34. Can I file a complaint against my doctor for discriminating against me because of my sexual orientation?**

Yes, you can. Discrimination based on sexual orientation is prohibited in healthcare under the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette, and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.