

Sex and Current Gender Input and Display

Quick Implementation Guide

**Edition 1
22nd April 2010**

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This document was prepared for NHS Connecting for Health which ceased to exist on 31 March 2013. It may contain references to organisations, projects and other initiatives which also no longer exist. If you have any questions relating to any such references, or to any other aspect of the content, please contact cuistakeholder.mailbox@hscic.gov.uk

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Introduction

The NHS categorises a person's gender in two ways:

- **Person Gender Current**, which refers to a person's current gender classification
For brevity and clarity, this document uses the term **Current Gender** for this concept
- **Person Gender at Registration**, which refers to the record of a person's gender classification at the point of birth registration
For brevity and clarity, this document uses the term **Sex** for this concept

Healthcare professionals and patients may confuse the terms 'Current Gender' and 'Sex', or assume that they are synonymous. Therefore, all NHS applications should display and explain those terms in a clear and consistent manner, both at input and at subsequent display.

Allowable values for Current Gender and Sex need to be from a pre-defined, restricted set in order to ensure legal compliance and data interoperability and to respect patient sensitivity.

Important

The values defined in this document are based upon the current proposed changes to the *NHS Data Model and Dictionary*¹. Should future changes be made to this document, amendments to this guidance will be required.

Although it contains all of the guidance points, this document omits supporting information and is therefore not intended as a substitute for the full NHS CUI document *Sex and Current Gender Input and Display*². Refer to that document for the definitive statement of the design guidance in this area.

The visual representations used to display the guidance are illustrative only. Stylistic choices (for example, display font used), unless otherwise specified, are not part of the guidance and are therefore not mandatory requirements.

¹ NHS Data Model and Dictionary
<http://www.datadictionary.nhs.uk/index.asp>

² Sex and Current Gender Input and Display – User Interface Design Guidance (v4.0.0.0)

Current Gender and Sex Display

Male
Female
Other Specific
Not Known
Not Specified

CGS-0003

The Current Gender status is one of the illustrated values

Mandatory

Male
Female
Not Known
Indeterminate

CGS-0011

The Sex status must only contain one of the illustrated values

Mandatory

Current Gender Not Known
Sex Female

CGS-0007

Label the Current Gender status display 'Current Gender'

Recommended

CGS-0016

Label the Sex status display 'Sex'

Recommended

Current Gender and Sex Input

The guidance supports two control styles for input of Current Gender and Sex

Option Button Group (also known as Radio Button Group)

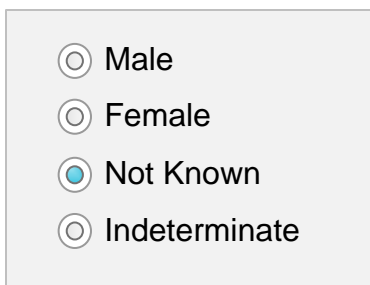
Current Gender



A vertical list of five radio buttons. The first four are unselected, and the fifth is selected.

- Male
- Female
- Other Specific
- Not Known
- Not Specified

Sex

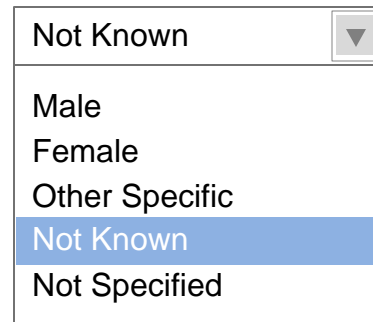


A vertical list of four radio buttons. The third is selected.

- Male
- Female
- Not Known
- Indeterminate

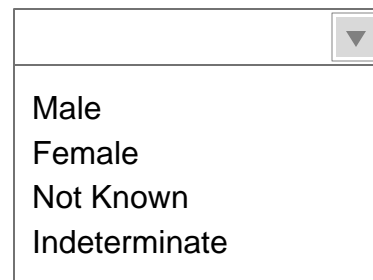
Drop-Down List Box

Current Gender



A drop-down list box with a downward arrow icon. The list is open, showing five options: Not Known, Male, Female, Other Specific, and Not Specified. The 'Not Known' option is highlighted in blue.

Sex



A drop-down list box with a downward arrow icon. The list is open, showing four options: Male, Female, Not Known, and Indeterminate.

The Option Button group design occupies more screen space but provides better instruction to the user.

This control style should be used if there is room on the input form.

Current Gender Input

Current Gender



Male

Female

Other Specific

Not Known

Not Specified

CGS-0001

Label the Current Gender input controls 'Current Gender'

Mandatory

CGS-0008

Use 'Not Known' as the Current Gender default value

Recommended

CGS-0020

Current Gender option buttons group input controls must consist of five option buttons

Mandatory

CGS-0021

Current Gender option button group labels must be in the order illustrated

Mandatory

CGS-0022

The Current Gender tab order is the same as illustrated

Recommended

Current Gender Input

Current Gender

Not Known ▼

Male

Female

Other Specific

Not Known

Not Specified

CGS-0026

Use a single drop-down list box for the Current Gender control

Mandatory

CGS-0025

Current Gender drop-down list box options are in the order illustrated

Mandatory

Current Gender

Not Known ▼

default value
(thus no prompt)

CGS-0027

Do not use a prompt for the Current Gender control, due to its default value of 'Not Known'

Mandatory

Current Gender

Male

Female

Other Specific

Not Known

When the person has a clear idea of what their gender is, but is neither discretely male nor female, for example, 'intersex', 'transgender', 'third gender'

CGS-0004

Make the definitions of the Current Gender status values accessible to the user

Mandatory

Note The tooltip is one example of how a definition might be displayed. The display style and definition are not part of the guidance

Current Gender Input

Male
Female
Other Specific
Not Known
Not Specified

CGS-0002

The Current Gender values are as illustrated

Mandatory

CGS-0005

Do not abbreviate Current Gender data values

Mandatory

CGS-0006

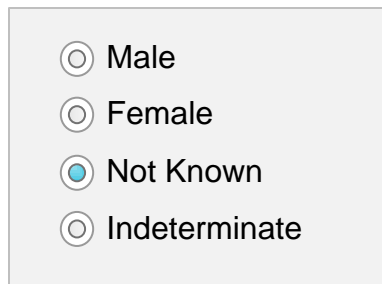
Do not display the underlying coded representation of the Current Gender data values

For example, the standard code for 'Male' may be the integer 1, but this number should not appear

Mandatory

Sex Input

Sex



Male

Female

Not Known

Indeterminate

CGS-0009

Label the Sex input controls 'Sex'

Mandatory

CGS-0013

The Sex default state is null

Mandatory

CGS-0023

Sex option button group input controls must consist of four option buttons

Mandatory

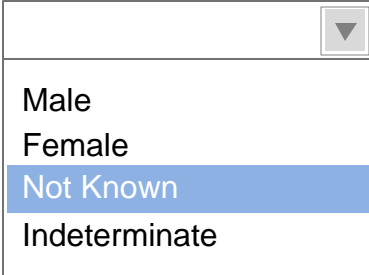
CGS-0024

Sex option button group labels are in the order illustrated

Recommended

Sex Input

Sex



Male
Female
Not Known
Indeterminate

CGS-0028

Ensure that Sex controls have no value selected by default and no method of returning to this 'null' state

Mandatory

CGS-0029

Use a single control for the Sex drop-down list box

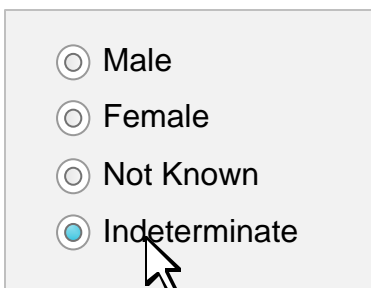
Mandatory

CGS-0030

Ensure that the Sex drop-down list box is blank by default and does not contain a prompt

Recommended

Sex



Male
 Female
 Not Known
 Indeterminate

CGS-0015

Make the definitions of the Sex status values accessible to the user

Mandatory

Unable to be classified as either male or female

Note The tooltip is one example of how a definition might be displayed. The display style and definition are not part of the guidance

Sex Input

Male
Female
Not Known
Indeterminate

CGS-0010

The Sex values are as illustrated

Mandatory

CGS-0012

Sex data values must never be abbreviated

Mandatory

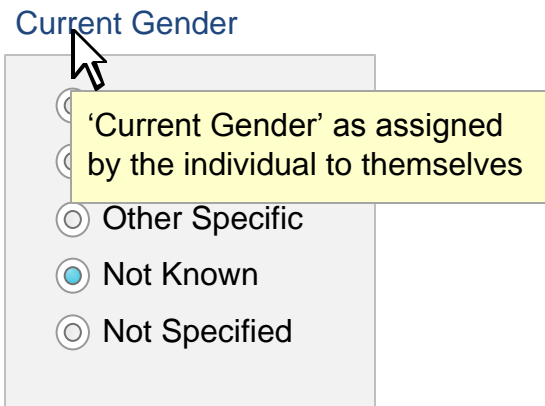
CGS-0014

The application must not display the underlying coded representation of the Sex data values

For example, the standard code for 'Male' may be the integer 1, but this number must not appear

Mandatory

Input Control Definitions



CGS-0017

Provide definitions for input controls

Mandatory

CGS-0019

Provide a shortened version of the definitions

Recommended

Other Specific

When the person has a clear idea of what their gender is, but is neither discretely male nor female, for example, 'intersex', 'transgender', 'third gender'

Not Known

Used when no information on this subject is known

Not Specified

When the person is unable to specify their current gender or does not have a clear idea of their current gender

Left Examples of definitions for Current Gender values

Note These definitions are examples only and do not form part of guidance

Input Control Definitions

Sex

Male

Female

Not Known

Indeterminate

Unable to be classified as either male or female

Not Known

Used when no information on this subject is known

Indeterminate

Used when the person is unable to be classified as either male or female

CGS-0018

Provide access to definitions of the valid values

Mandatory

Left Examples of definitions for Sex values

Note These definitions are examples only and do not form part of the guidance