

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

CIP & Dewey Section

To: Melissa Parent, Chair
Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee

Cc: Members of the Decimal Classification Editorial Policy Committee
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From: Kathryn Becker, Editor-in-Residence
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Re: Gender dysphoria

Discontinuation without meaning in context

From	Topic
616.8583	Gender-identity disorders

Continuation

From	To	Topic
616.8527	616.85277	Gender dysphoria

The issue

Currently, “616.8583 Sexual disorders and gender-identity disorders” is problematic for its inclusion of gender identity. Gender identity is not a disorder, much less a mental disorder as the hierarchy suggests. Furthermore, the term “gender-identity disorders” implies a multiple of disorders related to gender identity, of which there are none, making this a misnomer. There are disorders, namely anxiety and depression, that can be co-morbid with a gender dysphoria condition, but they are not gender specific.

Despite the notes and manual instructions to class works outside 616.8583, works about gender dysphoria are still being classified with this number. A WorldCat search (done in such a way so that there was no overlap) for 616.8583 for print books in the last year yields 5 of the 8 with gender identity as its main topic, 16 out of 59 in the last 5 years, and 23 out of 157 in the last 10

years. I also found repeat titles classified in 616.8583 and outside of this number, showing a lack of consistency and understanding.

The topic

Homosaurus defines gender dysphoria as:

a psychological diagnosis (replacing the outdated and offensive “gender identity disorder”) used to describe the sense of unease or dissatisfaction an individual feels as a result of incongruence between their gender identity and their assigned gender, gender expression, and/or the way their gender is perceived by others. This term is also used colloquially by individuals to describe the discomfort and distress they experience as a result of this incongruence. Though gender dysphoria is often associated with trans people, people of any identity may experience gender dysphoria when they do not feel “right” in their body or the way their gender is being expressed.

The two types of treatment for gender dysphoria are operative, with gender confirmation surgery, and non-operative, which includes psychosocial therapy and/or hormone replacement therapy.

The WHO’s publication of ICD-11 (International Classification of Diseases) has completely removed gender incongruence from mental disorders and into sexual health. The NIH National Library of Medicine shows the main topic of “Gender Identity. Sexual Behavior” with “Gender Identity, Transsexualism, and Transgender persons” classified together, but not part of “Sexual behavior, Sexual health (General or not elsewhere classified)” and separated from "Sexual Dysfunctions" diagnostic coding. However, the equivalent DDC entry is "Sex hygiene" at 613.95 and would not be the best place for gender dysphoria as this section is geared towards sexual activity and sexual physical health as the works listed in WorldCat show.

A September 2022 article states “There is growing evidence for a broad biological basis of gender identity. A variety of studies show evidence of genetic links, neuroanatomical differences, and prenatal androgen exposure that affect gender identity. Data in this field is more recent, as older studies mostly focused on psychosocial aspects of gender identity and gender dysphoria” (Anderson 2022). This is certainly an aspect to keep in mind but does not give reason to keep “gender identity disorders” with “sexual disorders.”

Dysphoria, in general, is not considered as a disorder, but more as a condition. There are several types of distinct dysphoria beyond gender dysphoria. Regardless of type, dysphoria can be a deep sadness and distress that can, but not always, lead to issues with anxiety and depression until the situation is rectified. It can also be short lived, although dependent upon treatment and support available, as compared to persistent depressive disorder (Darcy, 2022).

Possibilities

Through discussions with the team, several possibilities have been brought forward. Taking a cue from the ICD’s classification of sexual health and finding it wasn’t a good fit, we then considered a new number under 613.04 Personal health of people by gender, sex, or age group; both sex and

age groups have numbers (.042 and .043), and gender has not been assigned as of yet, but could be 613.041 as this would also keep the subdivisions in order of the hierarchy. Is gender dysphoria a personal health issue? Not in the way the current literature classified here is, but it would keep the topic in the medical 610s and away from sexual disorders at 616.8583. Quite often sex and gender are treated as equivalent terms, especially in American English and this is the case within areas of the DDC. Notes would need to be added to make clear distinctions between sex and gender, since DDC currently does not distinguish between the two topics.

Psychology of people by gender or sex at 155.33 was also considered. An ESS search in WorldCat resulted in 35 hits, but only 11 distinct and focused topic titles were found with the search term of “155.33 AND gender AND disorder AND (identity or nonconforming)” being used.

Several libraries have also classed works at 306.778 Transgender identity and intersexuality. While the term “transgender” is an umbrella term and captures gender nonconforming, it would not necessarily include topics that often accompany gender dysphoria such as anxiety, depression, and the psychosocial supports needed for the individual.

Most likely in an attempt to keep gender dysphoria in the medical listings, 16 works have been included under the 616.4 Diseases of endocrine, hematopoietic, lymphatic, glandular systems; diseases of male breast. These 16 works include 15 multidisciplinary approaches to transgender health and 1 court study from Greco-Roman antiquity. I feel that the majority of these 16 were simply trying to keep them out of the 616.8583.

We also considered 362.1 People with physical illnesses. There is a built number of 362.108664 Gay people—medical care. Librarians have built a similar number with T1--0867 for transgender people (362.10867). If we were to use 362.1 for the social provision of services aspect, this could parallel with the 610s for medical care.

In my reading and research, the general term of dysphoria is repeatedly referred to as a feeling of emotions and mood. This realization brought me to 616.8527 Depressive disorder. This classification already has a note to include seasonal affective disorder and mood disorders. As there are several distinct types of dysphoria, regardless of gender, this could be a solution.

Discussing this option of 616.8527, Library of Congress classifier Ronja Zweifel reached out to librarians who also identify as non-cisgender for their opinion. They agreed that this placement was fine, but that it would be nice to have a subdivision so that it does not get lost with the other works that would be in this category.

Proposed action

First, I propose that we add “dysphoria” to 616.8527 Depressive disorder which will create “Depressive disorder and dysphoria”. This classification already has a note to include seasonal affective disorder and mood disorders, and by continuing the heading allows for the various dysphoria types as well. A note entry of “Subdivisions are added for either or both topics in

heading” will be included; we do not anticipate a separate subdivision for dysphoria, as we do not expect works on the multiple types of dysphoria.

Secondly, I propose an authorization of 616.85277 for gender dysphoria which will leave space for other depressive disorders and specific dysphoria topic numbers as needed. This will also ensure that works on gender dysphoria are not lost.

Third, we will update notes in other entries directing to 616.85277 gender dysphoria as appropriate. However, in 306.76 Sexual orientation, transgender identity, intersexuality, the note "For medical aspects of LGBT identity, see 616.8583" will be deleted as will "Class practices associated with specific orientations in 306.77" as they are no longer relevant with current knowledge.

Finally, I propose the removal of the term “gender identity” and “gender identity disorders” from 616.858 and 616.8583.

References

- Anderson, Danyon, et al. "Gender Dysphoria and Its Non-Surgical and Surgical Treatments." *Health Psychology Research*, U.S. National Library of Medicine, 23 Sept. 2022, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9501960/>.
- Darcy, Andrea M. "What Is Dysphoria? and What Now If This Is You?" *Harley Therapy™ Blog*, 16 May 2022, <https://www.harleytherapy.co.uk/counselling/what-is-dysphoria.htm>.
- "Gender Dysphoria." *Mayo Clinic*, Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, 26 Feb. 2022, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/gender-dysphoria/diagnosis/treatment/drc-20475262>.
- "Homosaurus Vocabulary Terms." *Homosaurus Vocabulary Site*, <https://homosaurus.org/v3/homoit0000572>.
- Rodríguez, M. Fernández, et al. "Gender Incongruence Is No Longer a Mental Disorder." *Journal of Mental Health & Clinical Psychology*, 18 Sept. 2018, <https://www.mentalhealthjournal.org/articles/gender-incongruence-is-no-longer-a-mentaldisorder.html>.

- .76 Sexual orientation, transgender identity, intersexuality
- Standard subdivisions are added for sexual orientation, transgender identity, intersexuality together; for sexual orientation and transgender identity together; for sexual orientation alone
- Class here people by sexual orientation; interdisciplinary works on LGBT identity (Lesbian gay bisexual transgender identity), SOGI (Sexual orientation and gender identity)
- Class interdisciplinary works on gender identity in 305.3
- .766 Homosexuality
- Class here gay people (gay men and lesbians); gay liberation movement, homophobia
- See also 616.8583 for homosexuality treated as a medical disorder*
- .768 Transgender identity and intersexuality
- Standard subdivisions are added for transgender identity and intersexuality together, for transgender identity alone
- Including female-to-male transgender people, male-to-female transgender people; hijras
- Class here gender nonconformity, transsexuality; gender nonconforming people, transgender people, transsexual people
- Class gender dysphoria in 616.85277; class interdisciplinary works on gender identity in 305.3
- 616.694 *Intersexuality
- Class here hermaphroditism, comprehensive medical works on sex differentiation disorders
- Class interdisciplinary works on intersexuality in 306.7685. Class a specific sex differentiation disorder with the disorder, e.g., congenital adrenal hyperplasia 616.45, congenital adrenal hyperplasia in children 618.9245
- .852 7 *Depressive disorder and dysphoria
- Including seasonal affective disorder
- Class here comprehensive works on depression, on mood disorders
- Subdivisions are added for either or both topics in heading
- For bipolar disorder, see 616.895; for postpartum depression, see 618.76*
- .852 77 *Gender dysphoria
- .858 Personality disorders, sexual disorders, impulse-control disorders, factitious disorders, developmental disorders, learning disorders; violent behavior; intellectual disabilities

.858 3

***Sexual disorders**

Including homosexuality treated as a medical disorder

Class interdisciplinary works on homosexuality in 306.766

*See also 616.694 for intersexuality**See Manual at 616.8583*

.89

***Mental disorders**

Including manifestations of mental disorders

Class here abnormal and clinical psychologies, comparative abnormal behavior of animals, psychiatry, psychoses

Class a specific organic psychosis not provided for here with the psychosis, e.g., psychosis due to brain tumors 616.99481

*For neuroses, see 616.852; for personality disorders, sexual disorders, impulse-control disorders, factitious disorders, developmental disorders, learning disorders; violent behavior, see 616.858; for puerperal mental disorders, see 618.76**See Manual at 616.89 vs. 150.195*

A		
I_a Affective disorders	616.852 7	
medicine	616.852 7	
D		
Depression (Mental state)		
medicine	616.852 7	
I_a Depression, Mental	616.852 7	
Depressive disorder		
medicine	616.852 7	
<i>see also</i> Mental disorders		
Dysphoria		
P medicine	616.852 7	
G		
Gender dysphoria		
medicine	616.852 77	
H		
Homosexuality		
medicine	616.858 3	
M		
Mood disorders		
medicine	616.852 7	
<i>see also</i> Mental disorders		
P		
Paraphilias		
N medicine	616.858 3	
<i>see also</i> Mental disorders		
I_a Psychosexual disorders	616.858 3	
medicine	616.858 3	
S		
I_a Seasonal affective disorder	616.852 7	
medicine	616.852 7	
<i>see also</i> Mental disorders		
Sex offenses		
N psychiatry	616.858 3	
Sexual deviation		
medicine	616.858 3	
Sexual disorders		
psychiatry	616.858 3	
I_a Sexual reorientation programs	616.858 3	