

## Mayo Clinic Minute: The importance of cancer screenings for LGBTQ community

Video

Audio

	Going to the doctor can be scary for anyone, but especially for some.	
Natalie Erbs, M.D. Family Medicine Mayo Clinic	"One of the things we see is that so many members of our LGBTQ community are just scared to come to the doctor in general. They're worried about being judged for life choices or sexual preferences, and they're not comfortable talking about that."	
	And that means missing important health care screenings.	
	"They're missing their breast cancer screenings. They're missing their colon cancer screenings. They're missing their cervical cancer screenings."	
	Dr. Erbs says she is concerned that some patients who are transgender may forgo cancer screenings.	
	"For our transgender patients, that can be a much more sensitive topic because the organs that you have, you may no longer identify with. And if you don't identify with those organs, you might not want to come in and have them examined."	
	Dr. Erbs say however you identify, it's crucial you get health care.	
	"We want you to be your authentic self. And so that you can come in, and we can treat you."	
	The bottom line, says Dr. Erbs...	
	"Come in for your preventive screenings. It very well could save your life."	
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.	