

Rainbow Road of Reproduction



Mark P. Leondires, MD

Medical Director
Illume Fertility
Norwalk, CT

The lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, questioning, queer, intersex, asexual (LGBTQIA+) community is diverse and from every walk of life, race, creed,

and color. To serve this community means to open your practice door and adjust practice patterns to take care of everyone. While there are many places where it is relatively safe to be members of the community, there are significant hurdles that remain to be surmounted both in the US and abroad.

There are millions of members of the LGBTQIA+ community who want to move forward with family building. Their options include biological parenting, adoption, and foster parenting to adopt. It is important to understand that members of the community need many resources in order to move forward including medical, mental health, and legal. Reproductive

healthcare professionals need to understand how to personalize care for members of the LGBTQIA+ community. This includes understanding the desire for known sperm and egg donors, the ability to work with family members for support regarding gametes and gestational surrogacy, the various pathways to parenthood within the community and their options, and the financial challenges that must be faced.

There are steps that every practice can take to be more welcoming to members of the community some of which are small like practice signage, while others take a significant amount of effort including changing intake forms and processes, completion of inclusivity training, and building out detailed content on practice websites for the variety of pathways to parenthood for different members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Striving for inclusivity across the spectrum of the LGBTQIA+ and other marginalized communities should be a goal for every healthcare practice. Everyone deserves to have access reproductive healthcare.