

# discrimination

**If it doesn't break your heart,  
get a checkup**

**Every patient  
has the right to the best  
available health care,  
regardless of  
health condition,  
race, age,  
sexual orientation or  
socioeconomic status.**



Discrimination is a problem that affects all society. Within the health services, people with HIV and other diseases are sometimes affected by discrimination. Check for these symptoms of discrimination:

- Refusal to admit patients to health care facility
- Delayed treatment
- Other forms of care (e.g., food, hygiene) delayed or withheld
- Premature discharge of patients
  - Testing without consent
- Breach of confidentiality within or outside the health care system
- Inappropriate comments or behavior (e.g., shouting, rudeness)
- Use of excessive precautions

**Health workers: partners in the fight against discrimination**



**Pan American  
Health  
Organization**

*Regional Office of the  
World Health Organization*