

# Why Person-First Language Matters

Since the 1990s, there has been an effort among medical professionals and journalists not to label people by their illnesses, disabilities, or diseases but rather to use “person first” or “patient first” language. This language communicates that the individual is defined by their whole person, and not their condition. A person isn’t a disability, condition or diagnosis; a person has a disability, condition or diagnosis, for example, “the patient with GACI” instead of “the GACI patient”.

Person-first language is often considered the most respectful way to talk about disabilities and diseases. It also conveys understanding that someone is living with an issue. Research shows “person first” language helps individuals feel less stigmatized and more in control of their conditions.

Whether it is in writing or speaking, GACI Global strives to use person-first language in our communication. Below are some person-first language examples that you can use when referring to individuals affected by GACI/ARHR2.

Instead of saying the GACI baby/child/patient consider using one of the following:

The baby/child/patient with GACI.

He/she was diagnosed with GACI.

He/she has a diagnosis of GACI and ARHR2.

The child who has GACI.

Individuals affected by GACI/ARHR2.

Sally is living with ARHR2.

She is the baby who had GACI/ARHR2.

The phrase “GACI/ARHR2 Community is acceptable as it is not referring to a person. It is referring to a group that would not otherwise exist without this disease.