The NIMH Data Archive (NDA) released an update to the platform that applied a global change to the 'gender' data element to rename it to 'sex'. This element is a required field on all NDA data structures, thus it is included in all data submissions and formats for packaged data. These changes were extended to NDA web services and had the potential to break pipelines or automated workflows that interface with these services. We expect the change to have had minimal impact on existing workflows, but any process that inspected a response for the 'gender' element will be affected and should be updated on or before March 11, 2019 to look for 'sex' instead. Workflows that push data should continue to work with either fields/elements/columns named either 'gender' or 'sex' indefinitely.

Details on the potential impact of this update on all webservices are below:

**Data Dictionary: /api/datadictionary/v2**

**Changes:**

- All data structure resources will no longer return a 'gender' element
- All data structures resources will now return a 'sex' element identical to the gender element, except the name will now be sex
- The data element resource for gender will still exist, but requesting this resource will return the sex element.
- An alias will be added for all data structures to map 'gender' to 'sex'

**Anticipated Impact:**

- With the 'gender' alias automated workflows, such as data submission that use a pre-existing template should continue to work without requiring any changes.
- Any workflows that process a response from this web service and expect an element named 'gender' will fail and should be updated to expect responses to return 'sex'

**miNDAR: /api/mindar**

**Changes:**

- miNDAR import operations will accept either 'sex' or 'gender' (because of gender alias) and will load the data into a column named 'sex'
- miNDAR records operations will export data from miNDAR tables and always export the 'gender' column as 'sex'

**Anticipated Impact:**

- With the 'gender' alias automated workflows, such as data submission that use a pre-existing template should continue to work without requiring any changes.
- Any workflows that process a response from this web service and expect an element named 'gender' will fail and should be updated to expect responses to return 'sex'
Variable ‘gender’ renamed to ‘sex’

Validation: /api/validation

Changes:

- The validation service uses the data dictionary web service for validation rules and will accept ‘gender’ columns if the data structure includes a 'gender' alias for the 'sex' element

Anticipated Impact:

- Automated validation workflows should not require any updates as long as a 'gender' alias exists for each structure being validated

GUID: /api/guid

Changes:

- The GUID web service will now return a 'sex' element now instead of 'gender' whenever data is retrieved for a subject

Anticipated Impact:

- Any automated workflows that expect requests to return an element named 'gender' should be updated to look for an element named 'sex'