

# Transgender patient care: a two-part series

Session 2 : Monday, May 23

## How to improve care and the care experience for transgender people

We strongly encourage you join the call by receiving a call-back.

If you choose to dial-in, please be sure to use your **attendee #** found under the “Event Info” tab.



California  
Health Care  
Foundation

California  
**Improvement**  
**Network** Better Ideas  
for Care Delivery

# Housekeeping

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- This session will be recorded.
- Slides and recording will be posted on CIN website within a week.  
—[www.chcf.org/cin](http://www.chcf.org/cin)
- To ask a question:
  - Logistical questions: Use CHAT to the ORGANIZER
  - Questions for Speakers : Use QUESTIONS/CHAT
- Survey: Please look for quick online survey to let us know what you think.

# Today's Speakers

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**JM Jaffe**

Trans Health Manager  
Lyon-Martin Health Services



**Madeline Deutsch, MD, MPH**

Director of Clinical Services,  
UCSF Center of Excellence  
for Transgender Health



# CREATING A GENDER-AFFIRMING CLINIC ENVIRONMENT

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*J.M. Jaffe*  
*Trans Health Manager*  
*Project HEALTH*  
*Lyon-Martin Health Services*





*Primary care clinic in San Francisco that services cis-women, lesbians, transgender and gender non-conforming people regardless of their ability to pay*



P R O J E C T  
H E A L T H  
H A R N E S S I N G E D U C A T I O N ,  
A D V O C A C Y & L E A D E R S H I P  
F O R T R A N S G E N D E R H E A L T H

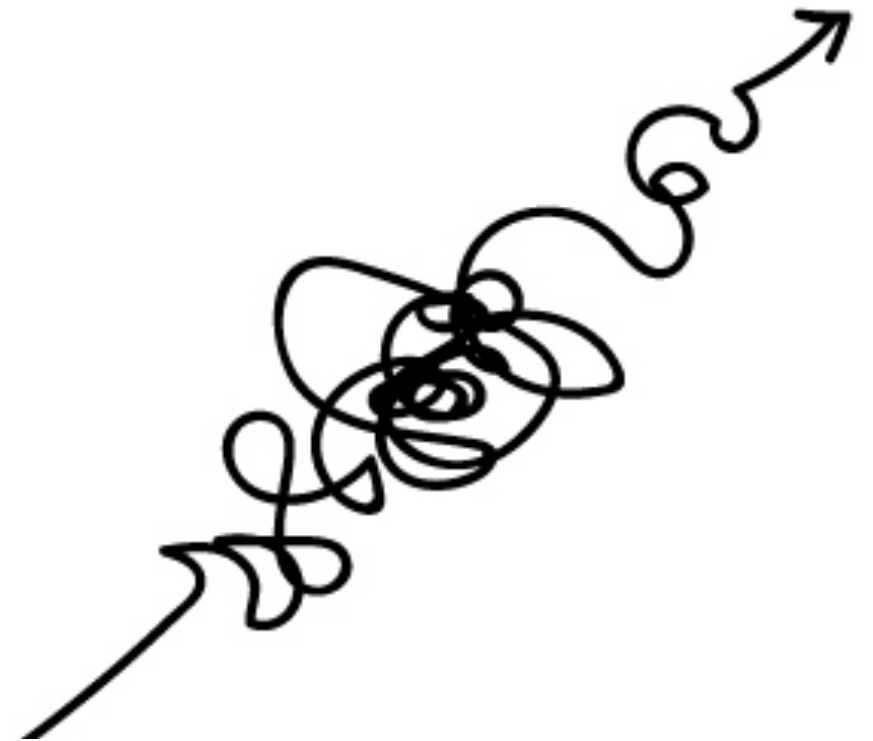
*Project HEALTH aims to improve access to transgender health through education, advocacy, and leadership*

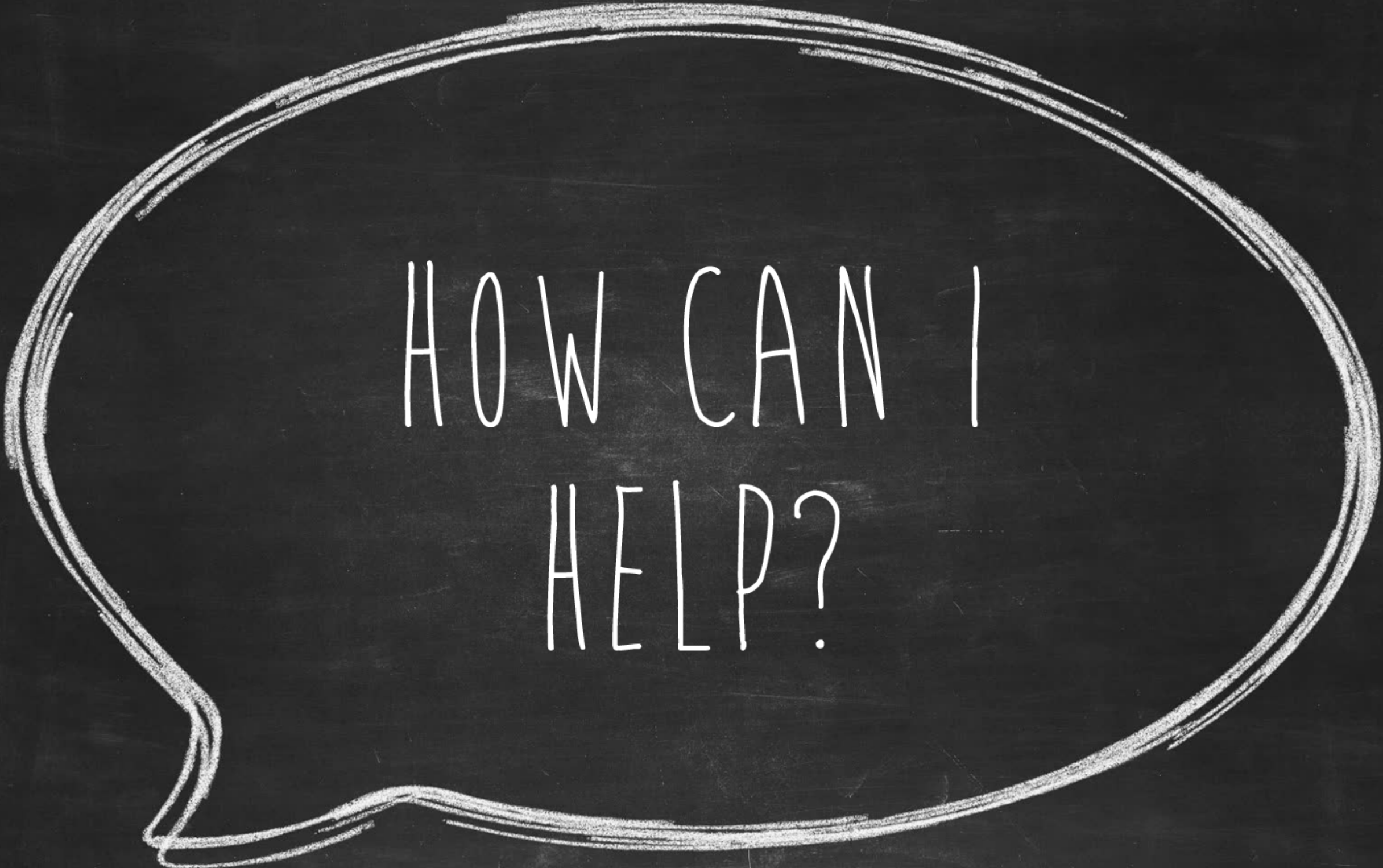
- *Trainings*
- *Clinical Rotation in transgender medicine at Lyon-Martin*
- *The TransLine*
- *Policy change on local, state, and national level*
- *Surgery referrals at Lyon-Martin*

# TECHNIQUES OF GENDER TRANSITION: EVERYONE'S DIFFERENT

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- Change Name
- Change Pronouns
- Come "Out" to Friends, Family, Community
- Change Dress, Clothes, Hair, Make-Up
- Use Different Gendered Facilities (Bathrooms, Dressing Rooms)
- Change Identity Documents
- Use Compression and/or Prosthetic Device
- Speak in Different Vocal Pitch
- Body Modification (tattoos, piercings, etc)
- Hormone Therapy
- Surgery



A hand-drawn speech bubble with a thick, white, chalk-like border. The bubble is irregularly shaped, with a small tail pointing towards the bottom left. The background is solid black.

HOW CAN I  
HELP?







ORGANIZATION NAME

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ABANDON THE TERM





# ADVERTISE THAT YOU ARE LGBT FRIENDLY ON YOUR WEBSITE

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# INCLUSIVE POSTERS

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If you've ever been sexually active (in any way) and have a cervix, you need regular Paps. Check out our website for more information and tips on how to make getting a Pap easier.



[checkitoutguys.ca](http://checkitoutguys.ca)

# ABANDON PINK / BLUE COLOR SCHEMES



# HIRE TRANS PEOPLE!

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- Make sure insurance options cover hormones/surgery
- Establish non-discrimination policy to protect trans employees



# INTAKE FORMS AND ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS

.....

## My gender identity is:

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Trans (MTF)
- ☐ Trans (FTM)
- ☐ Genderqueer
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Decline

## My sex assigned at birth is:

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Intersex
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Decline

## My marital status is:

- ☐ Single
- ☐ Married
- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Registered Domestic Partner
- ☐ Widowed
- ☐ Unmarried Partner
- ☐ Legally Separated
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Decline

## My sexual orientation is:

- ☐ Lesbian
- ☐ Gay
- ☐ Queer
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Heterosexual
- ☐ Celibate
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Decline

## My pronoun preference is:

- ☐ She/her
- ☐ He/his
- ☐ They/Them/Their
- ☐ Zie/Hir
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*New SO/GI Data Collection Requirements (HRSA)*

# RESPECT CHOSEN NAME AND PRONOUNS

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- All the time, on everything
- Even if the person is not around
- Even if you've never heard of it before
- Even if the person hasn't medically transitioned
- Even if it makes you feel uncomfortable
- If you are ever unsure of what pronouns someone uses, just privately and politely ask!
- Use they/them until you know what they use
- For Staff: Chosen name and pronouns on e-mail, e-mail signatures, name tags, anything HR related unless insurance or bank name needs to be the same as name on ID (everyone)

Hello  
my name is

my PRONOUNS are

☿



# PRONOUN PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT!

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- He/him/his/himself
- She/her/hers/herself
- They/them/theirs/themselves
- It/it/its/itself
- Zie/hir/hirs/hirself
- Co/co/co's/coself
- Yo/yo/yos/yoself
- No pronoun, just name
- Abandon Titles, sir/ma'am
- Latinx, ellos



# GENDER NEUTRAL RESTROOMS

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*AB1732: CA recently passed law requiring all single-stall bathrooms be designated as gender neutral*





# SUPPORT CHANGING IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

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- To obtain court order, need to complete lots of paperwork, and obtain a physicians letter to change gender marker
- Then more paperwork and more fees for each document needing to be changed
- ID Please--Transgender Law Center
- Australia and India have "x" option

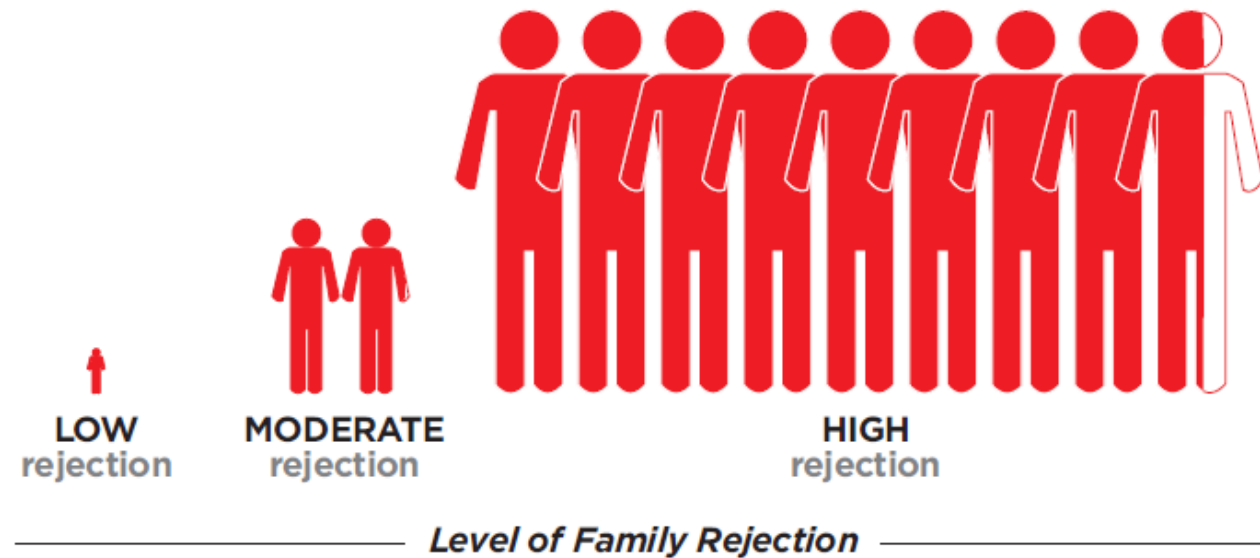


# COMING OUT / MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



## Lifetime Suicide Attempts for Highly Rejected LGBT Young People

(One or more times)



Ryan, Family Acceptance Project, 2009

## Youth Believe They Can Be A Happy LGBT Adult

Level of Family Acceptance

EXTREMELY accepting



92%

VERY accepting



77%

A LITTLE accepting



59%

NOT AT ALL accepting



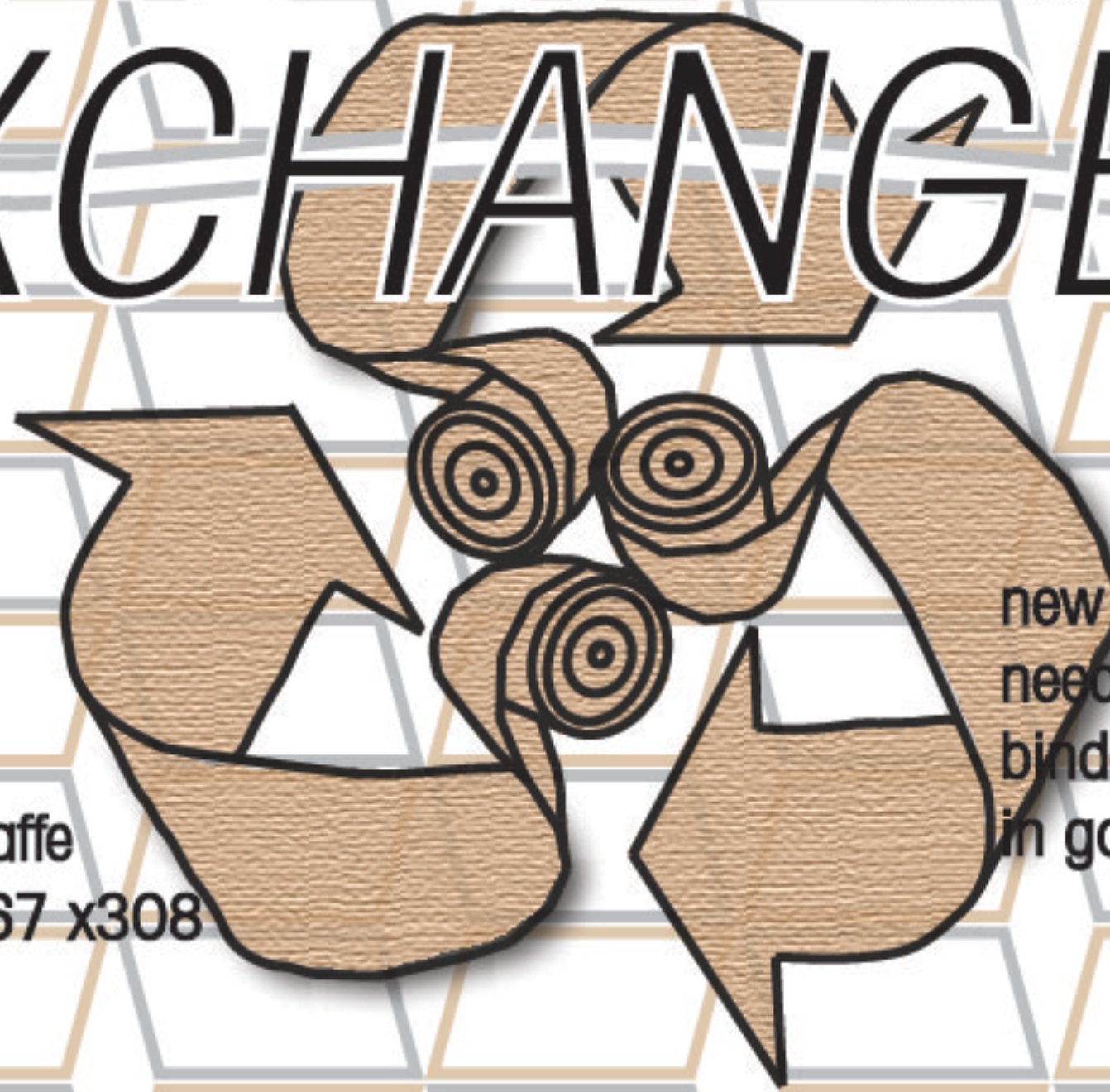
35%

Ryan, Family Acceptance Project, 2009



# BINDER EXCHANGE

SHARE WHAT YA GOT  
GET WHAT YOU NEED



QUESTIONS?  
Contact JM Jaffe  
415 565 7667 x308

new or used binders  
needed! please ensure  
binders are clean and  
in good condition.

DROP OFF AT THE CLINIC: 1748 MARKET ST #201, SAN FRANCISCO



# HARM REDUCTION IN MEDICAL GENDER TRANSITION

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- **Risk of Treating vs. Risk of Not Treating;** Compare to cis-gender people
- **The Danger of Black Market Hormones:** increased risk of blood clots, blood born disease transmission (HIV, Hepatitis), liver toxicity, hyperprolactemia, incorrect dosing
- **The Danger of Untreated Gender Dysphoria,** increased anxiety, depression, and suicide: rates of anxiety, depression, drugs and alcohol abuse much higher than general population, suicide attempts are at 41% in the trans community, compared to 1.6% in the general population

# HARM REDUCTION SUPPORT WITH NEEDLE USE

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- Learn How to Safely Prescribe Hormone Therapy and Understand the Risks/Benefits
- Informed Consent Model for Hormone Therapy
- Provide Injection Teaching Trainings for Safe Self-Injection Technique
- Provide Sharps Containers
- Provide List of Local Needle Exchange Sites
- Test Regularly for HIV/Hepatitis







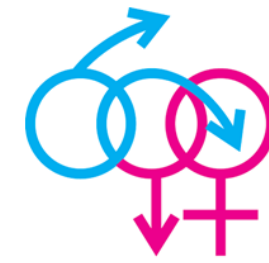
# SURGERY COORDINATION

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- Familiarize yourself with local surgeons, voice training and hair removal resources and what insurance they take
- Familiarize yourself with surgical options for gender transition
- Create Pre-op planning check-list
- Familiarize yourself with post-op complications
- Familiarize yourself with insurance requirements for coverage

# MEDICAL NECESSITY

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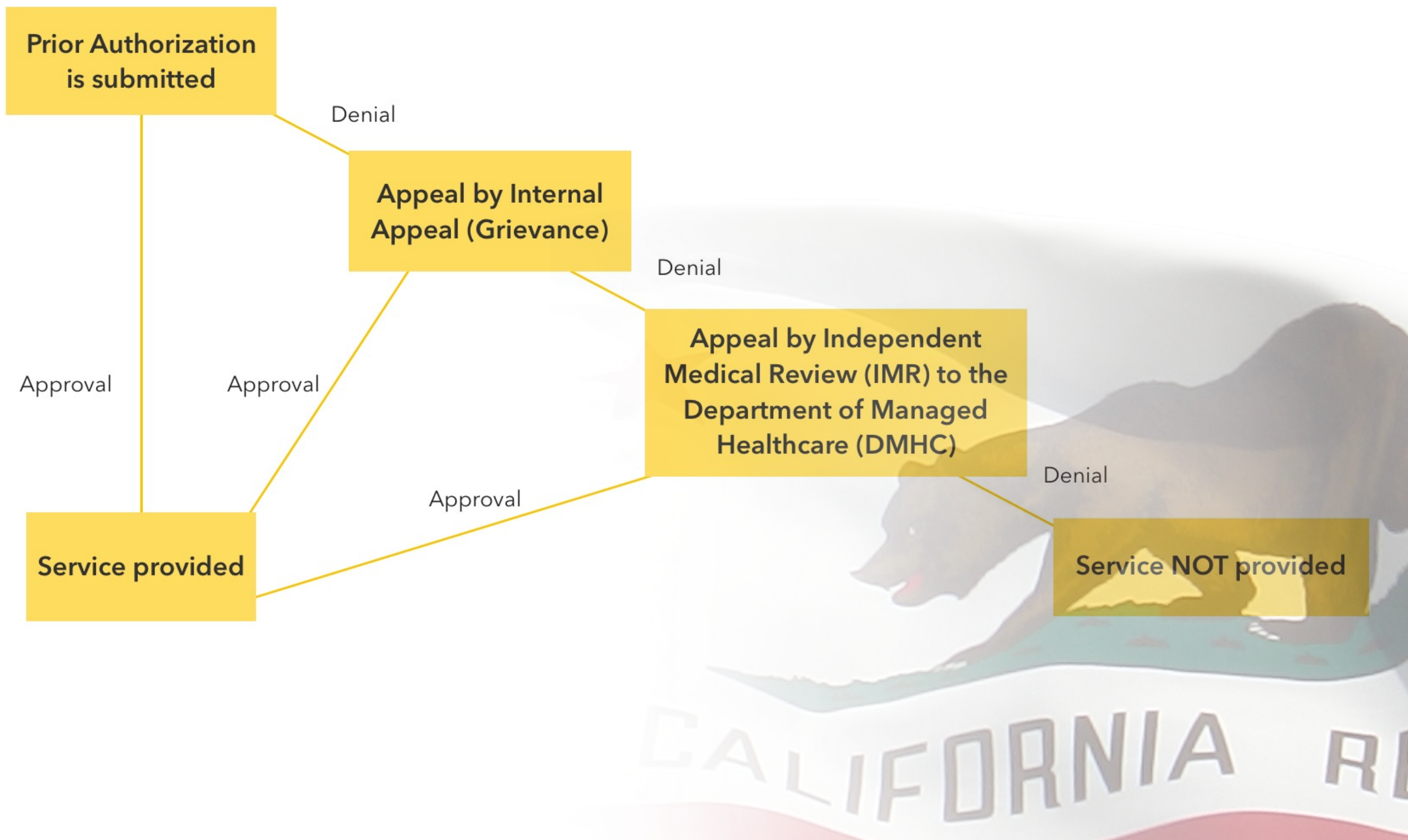


**WPATH** WORLD PROFESSIONAL  
ASSOCIATION for  
TRANSGENDER HEALTH

- Persistent, well-documented gender dysphoria
- All other diagnoses "well-controlled"
- 12 continuous months of living and presenting as "true gender"
- 12 continuous months of hormone therapy, unless contraindicated (except mastectomy)
- Capacity to consent
- >18 years old
- One medical provider letter of support
- One licensed mental health provider letter of support
- For surgery below the waist, an additional letter from a different licensed mental health provider



# NAVIGATING APPEALS



# LEGAL LANDSCAPE

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- State Level (CA)
  - AB1586, Insurance Gender Non-Discrimination Act (IGNA), 2005, prohibit blanket exclusions
- Federal Level
  - ACA Section 1557 prohibits discrimination based on race, sex, gender, nationality, age, disability





# BED-SIDE MANNER

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- Test based on what organs are present; don't assume (ask)
- Use language the patient uses for their body parts (ask)
- Don't assume what kinds of sex people have based on their gender or biology (ask)
- Don't be invasive, only ask relevant questions
- Review educational materials and gendered language

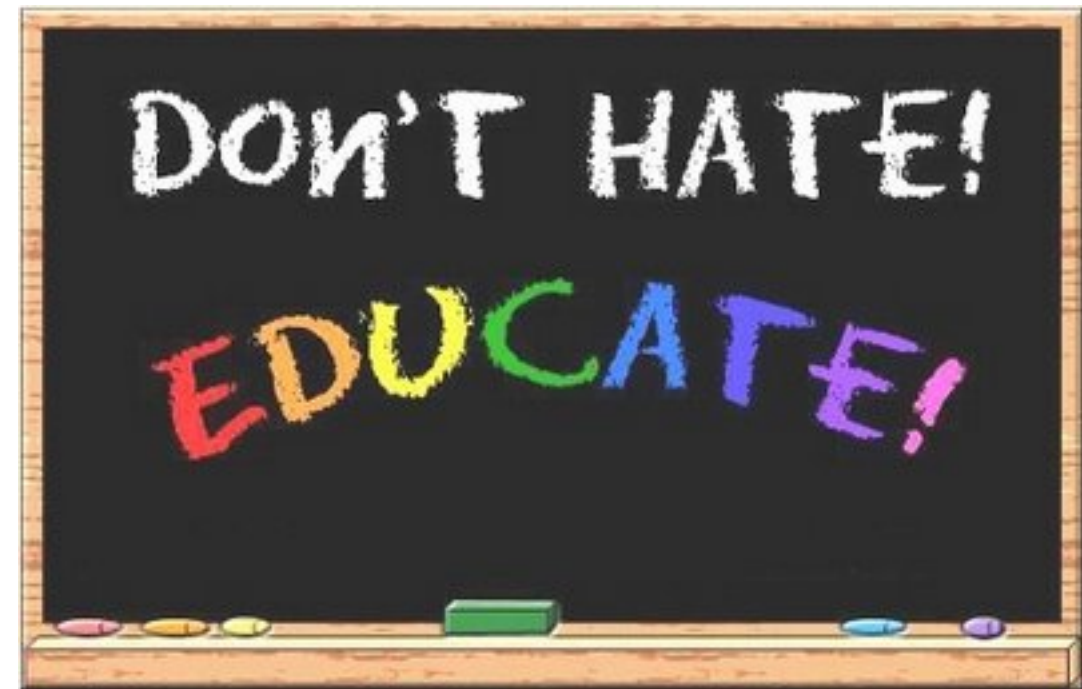
**SOME MEN  
HAVE  
VAGINAS.**

**SOME  
WOMEN  
HAVE  
PENISES.**

# EDUCATE EVERYONE!

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- Providers
- Medical Assistants, RNs
- Social Workers, Therapists, Psychiatrists
- Support Staff (front desk, receptionists)
- Billers
- HR
- Grant writers, development team



Keep

Educating

Yourself





# PROTOCOL RESOURCES

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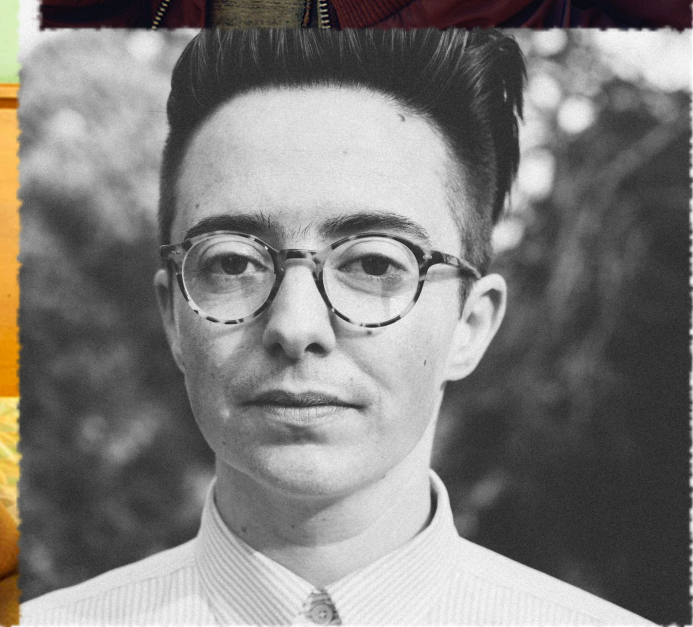
- TransLine
- Fenway's National LGBT Education Center
- Project ECHO LGBT
- WPATH Standards of Care
- UCSF CoE Primary Care Guidelines
- Callen-Lorde Hormone Therapy Guide







THANK YOU!





# Transgender Medical & Surgical Care

Madeline B. Deutsch, MD MPH

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University of California – San Francisco

Director of Clinical Services  
Center of Excellence for Transgender Health

Director, Transgender Care Navigation Program  
Women's Health Primary Care  
National Center of Excellence in Women's Health

Dimensions LGBTQ Youth Clinic  
San Francisco Department of Public Health



# Gender Affirming Treatments and Procedures

- Hormone therapy
- Surgery
- Other procedures
  - Hair removal
    - Transgender women -> facial and/or body hair removal
    - Transgender men -> Hair removal at graft site for phalloplasty
  - Speech therapy for voice feminization or masculinization
    - Role of voice surgery is evolving

# Gender Affirming Interventions – Non Medical

- Chest binding - > use of a tight bra or elastic bandage to flatten breasts and give a male chest contour
- Packing -> Use of an external penile prosthesis to give a male genital contour
- Tucking -> Displacement of the testicles into the inguinal canal, movement of the penis posteriorly into the perineum, and use of a tight undergarment to give a female genital contour
- Scalp hair replacement procedures – hairpiece, wig, hair transplants



# Common Surgeries

- Transmasculine
  - Mastectomy (“top surgery”)
  - Hysterectomy / oophorectomy (removal of ovaries and uterus)
  - Phalloplasty (creation of penis)
  - Metaoidioplasty (clitoral reconstruction)
- Transfeminine
  - Breast augmentation
  - Vaginoplasty
  - Orchiectomy (testicle removal)
  - Facial feminization
  - Reduction thyrochondroplasty (tracheal shaving)
- Other “cosmetic” procedures
  - Cosmetic in quotes, since many of these procedures are not at all cosmetic, but instead therapeutic in transgender people

# Why offer gender affirming care?

- Hormone therapy reduces anxiety, depression and improves social functioning & QOL
  - Newfield E, Hart S, Dibble S, Kohler L. Quality of Life Research. 2006 Jun 7;15(9):1447–57.
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  - Gorin-Lazard A, et al. J Sex Med. 2012 Feb;9(2):531–41
- Surgery improves global functioning, sexual functioning, family and interpersonal relationships, body image, and quality of life
  - Eur Psychiatry 2002; 17: 353-62
  - Archives of Sexual Behavior, Vol. 32, No. 4, August 2003, pp. 299–315 (2003)

# Why offer gender affirming care?

- Regret relating to surgery is very rare (1% or less) , and generally relates to surgical complications
- Note that studies have been conducted in a variety of country/language settings
- Bundling of hormones and other gender affirming procedures may improve participation in other important health care, such as HIV care or smoking cessation.
- Gender affirming procedures, including hormone therapy, genital, chest, and facial surgery, voice procedures, and hair removal are defined as medically necessary by WPATH SOCv7



# Is transition care coverage cost effective?

- \$8655/QALY savings
- Cost of coverage is \$0.016 per-member per-month

## **Societal Implications of Health Insurance Coverage for Medically Necessary Services in the U.S. Transgender Population: A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis**

*William V. Padula, PhD MS MSc<sup>1</sup>, Shiona Heru, JD<sup>2</sup>, and Jonathan D. Campbell, PhD<sup>3</sup>*

J Gen Intern Med

DOI: 10.1007/s11606-015-3529-6

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# Feminizing Hormones - Goals

- Development of feminine secondary sex characteristics
- Suppression/minimization of masculine secondary sex characteristics

# Feminizing hormones – physical effects

- Breast development
- Feminine redistribution of subcutaneous facial and body fat.
- Reduced muscle mass
- Reduced body and (to a lesser extent) facial hair
- Changes in perspiration and odors
- Arrest (and possible reversal) of scalp hair loss



# Feminizing hormones – other effects

- Reduced libido and erectile function
- Reduced size of testes, reduced or absent ejaculatory fluid and sperm count
- Changes in emotional and social functioning
  - Effects vary from person to person
  - Avoid projecting stereotypes

# Feminizing hormones – general approach

- Estrogen plus:
- Androgen blocker plus:
- (Sometimes) progestagen

# Estrogens – side effects

- Migraines
- Mood swings
- Weight gain
- Hot flashes



# Masculinizing Hormones

# Goals of therapy

- Development/emphasis of masculine secondary sex characteristics
- Elimination/minimization of feminine secondary sex characteristics

# Masculinizing hormones – physical effects

- Development of facial and body hair
- Redistribution of body fat
- Increased muscle mass
- Deepened/masculine voice
- Increased perspiration, change in urine and body odors
- Frontal and temporal hairline recession, possible male-pattern baldness/crown recession
- Clitoral growth

# Masculinizing hormones – other effects

- Increased libido
- Vaginal dryness and atrophy
- Cessation of menses
- Infertility/anovulatory state
- Possible changes in emotional and social functioning



# Masculinizing hormones – general approach

- Use of one of several forms of parenteral testosterone
- Other adjuncts may include progestagens, 5-alpha reductase inhibitors or aromatase inhibitors

# Transgender Youth

- Benefits of early identification
  - Avoid irreversible hormonal changes
  - Avoid trauma of undesired puberty
  - Gain socialization benefits of age-appropriate, felt-gender transition
- Interventions
  - Puberty blockers (GnRH analogs)
  - Other hormone blockers
  - Gender affirming hormones

# Transgender Youth - Outcomes

- Transgender kids who transition have better mental health outcomes than those who do not
- Transgender kids who transition have mental health outcomes similar to non-transgender kids

Pediatrics

March 2016

Mental Health of Transgender Children Who Are Supported in Their Identities

Kristina R. Olson, Lily Durwood, Madeleine DeMeules, Katie A. McLaughlin

Health outcomes?



**Table 2** SMR adjusted for age and period of follow-up on hormone treatment by biological sex in 1331 male-to-female and female-to-male transsexual subjects.

Cause of death	Male-to-female transsexuals		Female-to-male transsexuals	
	Observed cases	SMR (95% CI)	Observed cases	SMR (95% CI)
Malignant neoplasm	28	0.98 (0.88–1.08)	5	0.99 (0.65–1.44)
Lung	13	1.35 (1.14–1.58)	1	1.06 (0.26–3.19)
Digestive tract	3	0.42 (0.28–0.60)	2	2.41 (0.90–5.18)
Hematological	6	2.58 (1.97–3.30)	1	2.86 (0.69–8.57)
Brain	2	1.59 (0.95–2.46)	0	–
Other: kidney, melanoma, bone, and prostate in MtF. In FtM: leiomyosarcoma	4	0.79 (0.57–1.07)	1	0.77 (0.25–1.77)
Ischemic heart disease	18	1.64 (1.43–1.87)	1	1.19 (0.39–2.74)
Cerebrovascular accidents	5	1.26 (0.93–1.64)	0	–
AIDS	16	30.20 (26.0–34.7)	0	–
Endocrine/diabetes	2	0.85 (0.41–1.32)	0	–
Respiratory system diseases	4	0.85 (0.61–1.14)	0	–
Digestive system diseases	3	1.01 (0.68–1.45)	1	2.56 (0.62–7.69)
Genitourinary system disease (ESRD)	1	1.21 (0.58–2.17)	0	–
Nervous system disease (MS)	0	–	1	3.57 (0.86–10.7)
External causes	24	7.67 (6.84–8.56)	2	2.22 (1.07–5.44)
Illicit drugs use	5	13.20 (9.70–17.6)	1	25.00 (6.00–32.5)
Suicide	17	5.70 (4.93–6.54)	1	2.22 (0.53–6.18)
Unknown/ill-defined symptoms	21	4.00 (3.52–4.51)	2	2.08 (0.69–4.79)
Total	122	1.51 (1.47–1.55)	12	1.12 (0.89–1.59)

# CLINICAL STUDY

## A long-term follow-up study of mortality in transsexuals receiving treatment with cross-sex hormones

Henk Asscheman<sup>1</sup>, Erik J Giltay<sup>3</sup>, Jos A J Megens<sup>2</sup>, W (Pim) de Ronde<sup>1</sup>, Michael A A van Trotsenburg<sup>2</sup> and Louis J G Gooren<sup>1</sup>

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# Education and practical resources

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UCSF Center of Excellence for Transgender Health  
[www.transhealth.ucsf.edu](http://www.transhealth.ucsf.edu)

Lyon-Martin Project Health, TransLine Service  
[project-health.org](http://project-health.org)

Recordings available [www.chcf.org/cin](http://www.chcf.org/cin)