



2020 LEAD Capstone Poster Session

Improving Transgender Care: A Simulation Based Experience for Providers

Jessica Abramowitz MD

Assistant Professor

Internal Medicine



Abstract

- Population estimates suggest that 0.6% of adults or 1.4 million Americans identify as transgender. Transgender individuals may avoid medical care due to concerns of discrimination by medical providers or their staff. Medical providers may have a discomfort caring for transgender individuals due to a lack of training. There have been efforts made to increase the knowledge of trainees regarding gender affirming care but there is a need to offer standardized education to all practicing medical providers. This project will create a virtual simulation based gender affirming healthcare curriculum for internal medicine providers. Providers will be given information regarding culturally sensitive care for transgender individuals and how to make their practices more welcoming. Providers will then practice taking a basic medical history in a virtual telehealth encounter with a simulated patient. UT Southwestern internal medicine providers will become versed in gender affirming care and will be able to competently provide this care to this patient population. As a result of this training transgender individuals will receive better quality care and identify UT Southwestern as a safe place to receive care.
- If successful this initiative can be used in other departments at UTSW and the curriculum can become standardized for use by other universities.



Objectives

- To provide formal training to internal medicine providers on gender affirming care
- To allow a safe environment for internal medicine providers to practice gender affirming care in a medical interview
- To provide culturally sensitive and competent care to transgender patients at UT Southwestern



Background Information

- Studies have identified numerous barriers to transgender individuals receiving appropriate preventative and acute medical care.
- Transgender individuals may avoid seeking medical care due to concerns of lack of knowledge or discrimination on the part of medical providers. This lack of knowledge may manifest inadvertently with the misuse of pronouns or patient preferred name.
- Medical providers have acknowledged a discomfort caring for transgender individuals due to a lack of training.
- Negative experiences with the healthcare system may lead some transgender individuals to avoid seeking medical care. There have been efforts made to increase the knowledge of trainees but there is a need to offer standardized training to all practicing medical providers.



Specific Aims

- Create a gender affirming healthcare curriculum for internal medicine providers including information about medical history taking and practice barriers
- Give providers the opportunity to practice the use of preferred name and pronouns and other gender affirming practices in a safe setting to become more comfortable and aware of patients needs and sensitivities in history taking.



Project Plan

Plan	Analysis
1. Providers watch/read materials regarding best practices for gender affirming care in medical interview	Pre and post surveys regarding providers knowledge before and after the education
2. Virtual simulated medical interview scheduled for interested providers	
3. Feedback on medical interview provided following the recording of the encounter by both the simulated patient and observer	Analysis of providers use of gender affirming practices in medical interview
4. Participants give feedback on the experience	Qualitative interview analysis
5. Participants are surveyed again at 6 months after the experience	Feedback analyzed



Application of What You Learned at LEAD

Use of emotional and social intelligence leadership competencies:

- Self management: adaptability of original plan due to COVID
- Social awareness: empathy
- Relationship management: Influence



Proposed Budget

Personnel (simulated patient payment): \$1200

IT support and infrastructure: \$1500

Qualitative interview interpretation: \$2000

Publication costs: \$1000

Total: \$5700



Innovation and Significance

- For many providers currently in practice there was no formal training regarding cultural sensitivity in the care of transgender patients
- There have been educational programs for fellows and medical residents but none for already practicing providers
- A simulation based curriculum can allow busy providers the opportunity to practice gender affirming care in a safe setting at their convenience
- The use of a telehealth format for this curriculum is novel and essential as so many providers are using telehealth (as the COVID 19 pandemic continues) which can make connecting with patients even more challenging



References

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