

SUBJECT: Transgender Healthcare

SUBMITTED BY: Student Association of the ACOFP on behalf of Alisha Ungkuldee, OMS II,
Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM)

REFERRED TO: 2022 American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) Congress
of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 18

1
2 WHEREAS, the term transgender describes a person whose gender identity differs from the sex
3 they were assigned at birth¹; and
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5 WHEREAS, the term cisgender describes a person whose gender identity corresponds with the sex
6 they were assigned at birth²; and
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8 WHEREAS, the transgender patient population is 1.4 million adults and 150,000 youth ages 13-17
9 in the United States, with youth making up the largest percentage (10%) of transgender
10 individuals³; and
11
12 WHEREAS, the adult transgender population is more likely to comprise of racial and ethnic
13 minorities, including Black/African-American (0.8%), Latino/ Hispanic (0.8%), and other races or
14 ethnicities (0.6%), compared to White adults (0.5%)⁴; and
15
16 WHEREAS, compared to the cisgender population, transgender patients are at higher risk for
17 psychosocial and health disparities due to discrimination, homelessness, unemployment, and
18 violence⁵; and
19
20 WHEREAS, many transgender patients lack access to physicians in their communities who are
21 comfortable and competent in providing transition-related care⁶; and
22
23 WHEREAS, transgender patients often face concerns or negative experiences due to physician
24 biases that deter them from seeking medical services^{4,7}; and
25
26 WHEREAS, medical school education on LGBTQ curriculum is limited, as only 30.3% of medical
27 schools teach about the topic of gender transitioning, which translates into lack of physician
28 comfort and willingness to care for transgender patients^{6,8}; now therefore be it
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30 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) will actively
31 encourage use and support of inclusive language when referring to transgender and gender
32 nonconforming persons; and, be it further
33

34 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP advocate for legislative efforts to support transgender healthcare
35 access and quality; and, be it further

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37 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP agrees that physicians of the Osteopathic profession are uniquely
38 qualified to serve transgender patients, through compassionate care of the mind, body, and spirit;
39 and, be it further

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41 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Advisory Group consider CME
42 regarding LGBTQ+, gender identity, and gender transitioning so that as family physicians we can
43 increase our knowledge and understanding to better treat our patients.

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46 FINAL ACTION: APPROVED as of March 16, 2022

47 References:

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3. "Age of Individuals Who Identify as Transgender in the United States." *Williams Institute*, 12 Oct. 2021, <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/age-trans-individuals-us/>.
4. Kachen, Axenya, and Jennifer R. Pharr. "Health Care Access and Utilization by Transgender Populations: A United States Transgender Survey Study." *Transgender Health*, vol. 5, no. 3, 2020, pp. 141–148., <https://doi.org/10.1089/trgh.2020.0017>.
5. Edmiston, E. Kale, et al. "Opportunities and Gaps in Primary Care Preventative Health Services for Transgender Patients: A Systematic Review." *Transgender Health*, vol. 1, no. 1, 1 Nov. 2016, pp. 216–230., <https://doi.org/10.1089/trgh.2016.0019>.
6. Shires, Deirdre A, et al. "Primary Care Providers' Willingness to Continue Gender-Affirming Hormone Therapy for Transgender Patients." *OUP Academic*, Oxford University Press, 9 Dec. 2017, <https://academic.oup.com/fampra/article/35/5/576/4717794?login=true>.
7. Radix, Asa E. "Addressing Needs of Transgender Patients: The Role of Family Physicians." *The Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*, vol. 33, no. 2, 16 Mar. 2020, pp. 314–321., <https://doi.org/10.3122/jabfm.2020.02.180228>.
8. Player, Marty, and Amanda Jones. "Compulsory Transgender Health Education: The Time Has Come." *Family Medicine*, STFM, <https://journals.stfm.org/familymedicine/2020/june/player-2020-0163/>.