

Ethical Considerations when Caring for Unconscious Transgender Patients: Promoting TGD-Inclusive and Gender-Affirming Interdisciplinary Healthcare

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Background

- Transgender and Gender Diverse (TGD) populations:
- Have the same basic health needs
 - Experience health disparities related to gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation
 - Avoid or delay care
 - Receive inappropriate or inferior health care
 - Experience perceived or real prejudice and discrimination by healthcare providers and institutions
 - Often do not feel safe to disclose their gender identity

Current Practice

- Providers are instructed to ask patients to disclose gender-identity, preferred gender pronouns, sex assigned at birth, and preferred support system
- Unconscious patients are unable to disclose their gender identity, even if they felt safe and empowered to do so

Ethical Approach to Affirming Care

- Health Professions' Codes of Ethics
- CAMPERS framework
- Cultural Humility
- Moral Archaeology
- Self-Reflection

Interdisciplinary Team

- Represented Expertise
- Ethics
 - LGBTQ+ Care
 - Trauma and Cultural Bias
 - Palliative Care
 - Interdisciplinary education
 - Interdisciplinary practice
 - Public Health

Methods

- Literature Review
- Factors impacting care for unconscious transgender patients
 - death and bereavement
 - demographics (age, race, and geographic region)
 - relationship with legal decision-maker
 - medical correlates
 - psychological correlates
 - social correlates

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Communication	Values, Beliefs, Preferences	Grief, Loss, Bereavement
Moral Distress and Moral Residue	Role of Pharmacology	Sexual Health

Conclusion

Addressing these ethical considerations is a first step at fostering affirmative, trans-inclusive environments

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