

From Pre-op to Post-op: Unmasking Implicit Bias in Gender Affirming Care

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Abstract Background Information: Gender affirming care is currently a focal point of national debate and with increasing restriction of care, advocating for and protecting access to this type of care has become a public matter. Although there has been growing awareness of implicit bias, these thoughts often influence patient-provider interactions in several ways. This can lead to mistrust and patients not feeling comfortable to seek further treatment

Objectives of Project: To understand our own implicit bias that we hold when caring for all patients and especially the LGBTQ+ community.

Process of Implementation: Staff nurses have cared for many patients who have undergone gender affirming care only to realize that they themselves have had certain biases. After that a literature review was completed to understand the health disparity among the community as well as information on bias in healthcare. Information was shared with staff as well as resources to learn more about implicit bias.

Statement of Successful Practice: Staff are more aware of their own implicit biases, especially when it comes to the LGBTQ+ community that we care for at our hospital.

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: Staff can engage in more culturally and socially appropriate care by being educated and understanding their own implicit biases. Training team members would be beneficial to provide different resources to care for our ever changing patient population.