Reviewer's report

Title: Debate: Why should gender-affirming health care be included in health science curricula?

Version: 1 Date: 14 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Michele J. Eliason

Reviewer's report:

I am on the fence about this manuscript. The topic is important. The manuscript contains valuable information for readers, but nothing that is not already contained in several very good reviews of the literature and empirical data articles. In addition, there is some tendency to gloss over important issues by trying to cover too much territory—the sheer number of references compared to the word count of the text speaks to that. Different subgroups of trans populations have different health care needs, and those are not addressed at all. I'm not suggesting that each group be covered comprehensively, but at least mention that trans is not a monolithic or homogenous group.

I think this article could serve its stated purpose of encouraging inclusion of gender-affirming health care in the curriculum by focusing more on that—what is gender-affirming health care? What's the difference between transition care and gender-affirming care? What do healthcare professionals really need to know? Where in the curriculum does the info belong? Should it be included with LGB education or separate? How can it be infused everywhere where it needs to be (e.g. some trans men are at risk for pregnancy and rarely get appropriate contraception counseling; nonbinary people who do not use pronouns may have different issues; trans women have prostates, etc).

More specifically, here are some issues I found with the article by section (it was confusing that the line counts started on each page, but the pages are not numbered, so I list the heading).

In general, avoid using sexual minority or gender minority as nouns. Instead, sexual minority people or groups.

Abstract: could be streamlined a bit

Background

No need to say We (as authors). Authorship is assumed

Terminology does not include some of the commonly used terms such as gender nonbinary, gender nonconforming, genderqueer

Brief History

The sentence starting on line 48 of that page "Until 1973,…" contains two different issues: pathologizing in medical discourse and criminalizing in legal discourse. I recommend separating those sentences.

In lines 57 and extending to the next page, the term "gender dysphoria" is introduced, but then "gender diversity" used in the next sentence. These are different concepts and this section needs some clarification.

Starting on line33 of that page—the section on "gender incongruence" in the ICD, it seems to me that other extreme would be still considering gender identity/dysphoria as mental illnesses. Incongruence
seems like a middle option.

Do trans people experience gender identity related health disparities
Lines 50-51, suggests the position you argue against later "Pega and Veale argue for the recognition of
gender identity as a SDOH." Do they really, or do they argue for stigma related to the gender
normativity as the SDOH? Try not to pathologize people by implying their identities are the cause of
their health disparities.

Gender and Sexuality in health science education
Line 9 on the second page of this section "ingrained long-term sedimentation." What does this mean?
I've never heard this phrase and these is no suggestions from the context as to what it means.

Gaps in the Curriculum
"unconfident" is not a word. Is that actual term used in the research or what is non-confident?
"gatekept" use another word here instead of the circular argument that gate-keeping is gatekept
On the next page, line14, there seems to be an implication that individual providers decide on whether
they will be gatekeepers or use an informed consent model. Is this true, or do the systems that they
work in determine this role? Can education in healthsciences curricula alone change this?

What educational interventions
Second page, line 8 "Anaesthetics" is this a unique term to some language or should it be Anaesthesia?

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

No

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional
statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further
assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published
Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal