

OBJECTIVES:

1. Allow 1st years an opportunity to process & contemplate everything they heard in the POM1 "gender identity" presentation
2. Allow 1st years the opportunity to ask questions in a safe environment
3. Expand thinking through interesting discussion prompts

DISCUSSION PROMPTS:

1. **When did you realize your own feelings of gender identity and how did you know?**
 - a. Many transgendered individuals say they knew "something was different" early in life; nonetheless, the age when people publically "come out" as transgendered spans from early in life to beyond retirement.
 - b. Your ability to recognize your own feelings of gender identity is affected by factors such as internal recognition / acceptance and external / social environment.
2. **How do you think your own friends and family would react if you told them your internal feelings of gender identity don't match your physiological sex? Why might they act that way?**
 - a. denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance
 - b. fear, surprise
3. **What difficulties do you foresee in a transgendered individual participating in public ADL's (activities of daily living) such as using public restrooms, swimming in public, clothes shopping, etc?**
 - a. Minor: staring, whispering
 - b. Moderate: lack of respect, refraining from using public restrooms or swimming public. Many transgendered high schoolers get UTI's because they do not urinate all day out of fear of harassment.
 - c. Extreme: removal from premises, intimidation, verbal or physical harassment
4. **Regardless of transition stage, MTF individuals still need prostate screenings and FTM individuals still need mammograms. Obviously, insurance companies do not cover prostate screenings for women, nor do they cover mammograms for men. As a provider, how do you work with your patient to ensure they have (1) access to care & (2) fair insurance coverage, while avoiding unnecessary disclosure or compromising privacy?**
 - a. Ask the patient how much they are comfortable with the insurance company knowing
 - b. Can you bill the service as something less eyebrow-raising?
5. **You are a MTF transgendered individual who has not legally changed your male gender to match your female gender identity and the female clothes you wear. You are seated in the waiting room when the nurse comes in and says "Mr. Smith?" Do you stand up and risk stares and public confusion? Do you stay seated and come forward later? What do you do?**
 - a. What should you do in that instant?
 - b. What could you do in the future to avoid similar situations?
6. **What are the pros and cons of surgically changing your sex?**
 - a. Pros: relief of dissonance, sense of moving your life forward, a new beginning
 - b. Cons: expense (not covered by insurance), irreversible, social ostracism
7. **What are the pros and cons of legally changing your name or your gender?**
 - a. Pros: same as for sex-change
 - b. Cons: you may have discontinuity in your professional life (half of your research is listed in PubMed under one name, half your research is under a different name)
8. **If you were a transgendered individual living according to your gender identity (not your biological sex) and you are in a new relationship, would you tell your date that you are transgendered early in the course of your relationship or would you tell your date later in the course of your relationship? What is fairest to you? What is fairest to your date?**
 - a. Tell early: no secrets, but you risk losing them
 - b. Tell late: you have kept a secret, but you waited until you had built trust and they are less likely to leave