Training PA Students to Provide LGBTQ Care Via a Novel Elective Experience
April Stouder, MHS, PA-C (she/her); Quinnette Jones, MSW, MHS, PA-C (she/her)

**BACKGROUND**

- LGBTQ+ adults account for more than 4% of the US adult population.
- LGTBQ+ patients face health disparities and there is a shortage of providers to care for them.
- Data on LGBTQ+ content in PA curricula is scarce.
- Across 4 years of medical school, median number of hours spent on LGBTQ+ content is 5.
- To provide students with an educational opportunity to focus on LGBTQ+ patients, we created a 4 week elective course during the clinical phase of PA education.

**METHODS**

- Students completed pre- and post- course surveys regarding learning priorities, knowledge, and comfort related to caring for LGBTQ+ patients.
- Students also completed routine course evaluations.

**RESULTS**

- Two students have completed the course to date. Both strongly agreed with statements indicating increased confidence and knowledge in caring for LGBTQ+ patients.
- Rotation performed above standard PA program established benchmarks for all routine measures used for routine course evaluation.

**DISCUSSION**

- Feedback from PA students indicates that this novel clinical rotation experience improves their competency in caring for LGBTQ+ patients.
- A LGBTQ+ elective can help address the shortage of providers to care for LGBTQ+ patients by providing additional training in this area.
- PA programs could consider increasing rotations at sites that serve larger LGBTQ+ populations or offering unique elective experiences in order to enhance student confidence in caring for LGBTQ+ patients.
- Blending both didactic and clinical year opportunities may be most beneficial.

**REFERENCES**


**Sample Weekly Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Morning</th>
<th>Afternoon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>PreP Clinic</td>
<td>PreP Clinic May also see patients with HIV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Community Clinic</td>
<td>Community Clinic Family Medicine with focus on LGBTQ+ patients in low resource setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Adult Endocrine Clinic with focus on transgender patients</td>
<td>Quality Improvement Project Time QI project focusing on LGBTQ+ specific issues in a LGBTQ+ Patient-Centered Medical Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Community Clinic</td>
<td>Community Clinic Family Medicine with focus on LGBTQ+ patients in low resource setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Child &amp; Adolescent Gender Clinic</td>
<td>Child &amp; Adolescent Gender Clinic Clinical experiences with pediatric endo, surgery, social work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>