

SUPPLEMENTARY FILE

Structured Questionnaire

Physician Encounters with Transgender Patients at a Tertiary Care Centre in India: A Cross-Sectional Survey

Ethics Approval No.: 263/IEC-40/IGMC&RI/PP-7/2024 | Participation is voluntary and anonymous. All responses are confidential and will be used for research purposes only.

SECTION A: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC AND PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

A1. Age group (years): 25-35 36-45 46 and above

A2. Gender: Male Female Prefer not to say

A3. Specialty / Department: Primary Care / General Medicine / Family Medicine Specialist (please specify):

A4. Years of clinical experience: 0-5 years 6-10 years 11 years or more

SECTION B: FREQUENCY OF TRANSGENDER PATIENT ENCOUNTERS

B1. On average, how many transgender patients do you encounter per month in your clinical practice?

None 1-2 patients 3-5 patients 6 or more patients

B2. In your experience, for what conditions do transgender patients most often seek care at this institution? (Select all that apply)

Mental health conditions Infectious diseases (HIV/STIs) Hormone-related concerns Surgical procedures Routine/preventive care Other: _____

SECTION C: COMFORT LEVELS IN PROVIDING CARE

For each item below, please rate your level of comfort on a scale of 1 to 5: 1 = Very Uncomfortable, 2 = Uncomfortable, 3 = Neutral/Moderate, 4 = Comfortable, 5 = Very Comfortable

C1. Taking a clinical history from a transgender patient: 1 2 3 4 5

C2. Performing a physical examination of a transgender patient: 1 2 3 4 5

C3. Discussing gender identity or preferred pronouns with a patient: 1 2 3 4 5

C4. Prescribing or managing hormone therapy for a transgender patient: 1 2 3 4 5

C5. Referring a transgender patient to appropriate specialist services: 1 2 3 4 5

C6. Overall comfort level in providing care to transgender patients: 1 2 3 4 5 (This item was used as the primary comfort outcome; categorised as Low [1-2], Moderate [3], High [4-5])

SECTION D: PERCEIVED BARRIERS TO PROVIDING CARE

D1. What do you perceive as barriers to providing optimal care to transgender patients? (Select all that apply)

Lack of formal training in transgender healthcare

Limited clinical experience with transgender patients

Cultural and/or language barriers

Lack of institutional support (e.g., no dedicated clinic, no referral pathway, no gender-neutral facilities)

Personal discomfort or unconscious bias

Other (please specify): _____

D2. To what extent does each identified barrier affect the quality of care you provide? (Rate each selected barrier: 1=Minimal impact, 3=Moderate impact, 5=Major impact)

SECTION E: INTEREST IN ADDITIONAL TRAINING

E1. How interested are you in receiving additional training on transgender healthcare?

Very interested Somewhat interested Not interested

E2. Which of the following training formats would you prefer? (Select all that apply)

CME workshops/seminars Online modules Case-based learning Mentorship / clinical shadowing Curriculum integration (undergraduate/postgraduate)

E3. Which topic areas do you feel most need to be covered in transgender healthcare training? (Select all that apply)

Gender identity and terminology Hormone therapy and monitoring Mental health and psychological support Legal rights (NALSA, Transgender Persons Act) Communication and cultural competence Referral pathways and institutional resources

SECTION F: OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS (Optional)

F1. Please describe any particularly challenging experience you have had when providing care to a transgender patient (responses anonymised): _____

F2. What institutional changes, if any, do you believe would most improve care for transgender patients at this institution? _____

Note: This questionnaire was pre-tested on 10 physicians not included in the final sample. Minor wording adjustments were made based on pilot feedback. Face validity was assessed by two subject-matter experts (one in community medicine and one in health professions education). The comfort scale categorisation (Low: 1-2; Moderate: 3; High: 4-5) was defined a priori by the study authors. No formally validated external instrument was used; this is acknowledged as a study limitation.