

Gender affirmation surgery is a series of complex soft tissue and musculoskeletal surgical procedures performed as part of the treatment of gender dysphoria. Little is known about the impact of these surgeries on health-related quality of life, particularly as they relate to musculoskeletal pain and dysfunction. This is surprising given the frequency of pain and dysfunction following the same procedures(e.g. mastectomy) in non-gender affirmation surgery. Our purpose is to examine and expand our understanding of the post-surgical experiences of transgender individuals after gender affirmation surgery. In this proposal, we will complete focus groups of gender affirmed individuals and healthcare providers involved in the care of gender affirmed individuals. The results and feedback of these stakeholder focus groups will be used to develop comprehensive surveys to be sent to both groups of stakeholders We will determine 1) the types and impact of musculoskeletal pain and dysfunction following gender affirmation surgery, 2) the common course of recovery and choice of provider/intervention following gender affirmation surgery, and 3) identify healthcare providers' knowledge of and attitudes (or gaps therein) towards providing care for musculoskeletal pain and dysfunction in gender affirmed individuals. Clarifying these areas are essential to improving the care of these individuals who are described as "existing at the margins of healthcare."