

GHHN Gender-Affirming Care Position Statement

The Greater Hamilton Health Network recognizes the right to receive gender-affirming care for all in our catchment area and beyond. Bodily autonomy faces unprecedented challenges. In a global environment where gender-affirming care has been politicized to justify restricting or limiting access, we stand in support of our local Two-Spirit, transgender, non-binary, and gender diverse communities. Providing gender-affirming care confirms bodily autonomy to those we serve and is consistent with our Health Equity framework.

Gender-affirming care refers both to general healthcare that is safe and gender-affirming and to the range of social, psychological, and medical services that affirm gender. There is much diversity within Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities, with an array of services and approaches needed to provide adequate gender-affirming care.

The Greater Hamilton Health Network specifically recognizes and supports the right for youth to access medical services that affirm gender in our catchment and beyond. Gender-affirming care is a safe, effective, and evidence-based form of health care. Health care providers within the GHHN region look to regulated health professionals and medical experts to inform our approach to gender-affirming care for youth:

- The [Canadian Pediatric Society](#).
- The [Canadian Medical Association](#).
- The [Ontario Medical Association, and every other provincial and territorial medical association in Canada](#).
- [Children's hospitals across Ontario](#).

The GHHN is committed to supporting increased capacity for gender-affirming care for transgender and non-binary people. Further recommendations given to the GHHN and partners in consultation with Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ communities in Hamilton may be found in the GHHN Health Equity Framework and [Supplementary Report](#) or by contacting the GHHN Positive Space Working Group.