

Marco Garcia
Pediatrics PGY2

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IRB Proposal

Title: "Improving LGBT Healthcare in the Adolescent Population"

Mentor: Karen Soren

A. Study Purpose and Rationale The LGBT population is underserved medically. There are limited health resources out there to provide user-friendly medical services--areas such as HIV and STI testing, transgender care, and mental health/support groups for at risk youth. NYP and CHONY have several options for providing medical care and support services-whether they are thru the ACN/Adolescent Clinic or Young Men's Clinic but also thru the CUMC campus (services such as Project Stay, Q Clinic, Program for Study of LGBT Health, and LGBT Health Initiative.) There are other centers throughout the city including Callen Lorde and The Center that provide comprehensive LGBT healthcare, support groups and mental health services which are extremely important for this patient population. Around the country there is not currently an established curriculum that focuses on providing care to LGBT adolescents. Here within our residency program we hope to implement an LGBT curriculum and a catalog/database of community medical and mental health resources for LGBT patients. Ultimately the goal is to improve provider comfort with counseling LGBT adolescents and empowering them with the knowledge of knowing where to refer patients who screen positive during their medical visits.

B. Study Design and Statistical Procedures Prior to implementing the curriculum residents from all years (PGY1-PGY3) will be surveyed on a variety of issues related to knowledge and comfort with LGBT issues using a Likert Scale (1-5). We will also conduct several formative interview with key members of the residency program (program directors, faculty members, fellows and residents) to better understand the climate and current knowledge set regarding LGBT issues. Following the implementation of the curriculum, the same questionnaire will be administered to residents. An unpaired t-test will be used to compare difference in Likert scale (1-5) values before and after implementation of the curriculum. Formative interviews will take place with the same residency program members as well. Residents will be excluded from taking the post-test survey if they did not attend any of the curriculum events.

C. Study Procedure The curriculum will be developed thru this project to include noon conference lectures, a patient panel, a Grand Rounds speaker and several small group sensitivity and reflection sessions. Attendance will be taken at these events and will be used as inclusive criteria for the study.

D. Study Drugs Not applicable

E. Medical Device Not applicable

F. Study Questionnaires Residents will be asked questions regarding their comfort level and knowledge regarding the following topics and be asked to rank their comfort/knowledge level on a Likert Scale (1-5):

- Comfort interacting with an LGBT adolescent patient
- How often screening is done for high risk activities in LGBT adolescents
- Knowledge of where to refer LGBT adolescents with positive screens
- Knowledge of LGBT health community resources

G. Study Subjects: CHONY residents from PGY1-PGY3 years

H. Recruitment of Subjects: residents will be emailed to participate in the surveys. Curriculum events will be scheduled at required conference times for the residency program.

I. Confidentiality of Study Data: Surveys will be collected online and are anonymous and will be collected without identifying information

J. Potential Conflict of Interest No conflict of interest to declare

K. Location of Study: CHONY and online surveys

L. Potential Risks: None identified

M. Potential Benefits: To be able to provide a culturally sensitive training curricula to residents and faculty members which can have beneficial effects for patient care. Participants will be able to opt out of taking the survey.

N. Alternative Therapies: no alternatives currently exist

O. Compensation to Subjects: no compensation to participants

P. Costs to Subjects: none identified

Q. Minors as Research Subjects Not applicable

R. Radiation or Radioactive Substances Not applicable