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**OBSTETRIC MEDICINE JOURNAL PUBLISHES COMMENTARY CALLING FOR  
GREATER SUPPORT FOR PREGNANT TRANSGENDER MEN****Piece is co-authored by The Fenway Institute**

Many transgender men who have the capacity to bear children are faced with barriers in the healthcare system as a result of a lack of training, argue Juno Obedin-Maliver, MD, MPH, Clinical Instructor at the University of California San Francisco Medical School and Harvey Makadon, MD, Director of the National LGBT Health Education Center at The Fenway Institute in a [commentary](#) published in SAGE journal *Obstetric Medicine*.

In recent years, transgender people have experienced significant advances in social acceptance which has led many organizations to look at their policies, programs, and educational materials to ensure that work with their sphere is both affirmative and inclusive. While programs that provide health care for transgender people have grown in recent years, the healthcare system has failed to adapt to address this need, as the researchers explain:

“This leaves many health professionals unprepared to provide quality care, with many needing to “catch up” or refer (possibly delaying care) to someone else, when a transgender person presents for care.”

Many transgender men have the capacity to bear children but medicine as a whole has not incorporated gender diversity into routine care. This, coupled with news reports covering the pregnancies of transgender men sensationalizing what should be a personal experience, results in a harmful experience, one that can lead to increased experiences of gender dysphoria. As the researchers note:

“What becomes clear from qualitative study and more generalized experience caring for transgender people, is that a positive psychological outcome will depend on the experience someone has from the moment they first present for care and depends on the total experience from beginning to end being inclusive and affirmative.”

Healthcare providers and staff are often unaccustomed to caring for any transgender people, let alone ones who may be pregnant, which results in obstructions in the vital care transgender men need during pregnancy.

The researchers conclude that:

“All staff from the front line receptionists to clinicians will need training to understand why gender affirming polices and behaviors are important. [...] Every health care system needs to introspectively examine how they can comprehensively meet the needs of the gender diversity we have amongst our patients and community.”

“Transgender men and Pregnancy”, by Juno Obedin-Maliver and Harvey Makadon and published in *Obstetric Medicine*, is free to access and can be read [here](#).

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Since 1971, [Fenway Health](#) has been working to make life healthier for the people in our neighborhood, the LGBT community, people living with HIV/AIDS and the broader population. [The Fenway Institute](#) at Fenway Health is an interdisciplinary center for research, training, education and policy development focusing on national and international health issues. Fenway's [Sidney Borum Jr. Health Center](#) cares for youth and young adults ages 12 to 29 who may not feel comfortable going anywhere else, including those who are LGBT or just figuring things out; homeless; struggling with substance use; or living with HIV/AIDS. In 2013, [AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts](#) joined the Fenway Health family, allowing both organizations to improve delivery of care and services across the state and beyond.