



Dear Colleague,

Primary Health Care and the Department of Family Practice (Halifax, Eastern Shore and West Hants) support the provision of health care that is inclusive of all cultures, languages, sexual orientations and other potential barriers to care.

Did you know that nationally, 10% of the population identifies as lesbian, gay or bisexual, and 0.5 % of the population identifies as transgender, transsexual or gender non-conforming?

prideHealth, a Primary Care & IWK partnership, is contacted by people throughout Nova Scotia seeking a family physician who:

- is knowledgeable, understanding and accepting of the diversity of gender identity and/ or sexual orientation,
- is willing to work with patients through gender transition and is familiar with trans bodies,
- is knowledgeable about the unique health needs of the sexual and gender minority populations
- has staff that understand and respect the importance of using preferred names and pronouns.

Often, prideHealth cannot help these people to find a family physician.

As part of our Primary Care Connections program, in partnership with prideHealth, we need your help.

Many of us chose family medicine to provide comprehensive care from cradle to grave to a diverse population, yet many of us have little or no experience with transgender or non confirming patients.

Ask yourself: Are you comfortable discussing sexual orientation and /or gender identity and how this may impact a person's overall health? Did you know that the DSM no longer has a Gender Identity Disorder Diagnosis? Are you interested in training regarding these issues? Are you considered a "safe" provider? Are you willing to accept a limited number of new patients into your practice?

At the DFP Spring Forum on May 27th, we would like to bring together those who would like to learn more about prideHealth, those who have experience to share, and those who are interested in helping us create better access for this population.

If you are interested in joining this discussion, please contact Cybelle Rieber, prideHealth coordinator at 902-473-1433 or at prideHealth@nshealth.ca or contact me directly at (email/cell) to discuss further.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Gibson", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dr. Rick Gibson BSc, MD, FCFP, EXTRA Fellow, CCPE
Chief, Dept. of Family Practice

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