

| | Common transgender experience | Common intersex experience |
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| Consent | When a transgender person seeks out a specific hormonal or surgical treatment or to live as a gender other than that which they were assigned, they consent to this medical care. | When an intersex child's parents or doctors decide a child's body should conform to typical notions of male or female, and the child is forced to undergo normalizing surgery without their own input, the child does not consent to the surgical alteration of their body. |
| Autonomy | Transgender people have the right to autonomy , which includes asserting and expressing their gender. They should be able to access the resources (including all forms of medical care) that they feel are necessary and appropriate to their individual process of transition. No one should force or pressure a transgender person to undergo procedures, such as hormonal treatment or surgery, that they do not wish for themselves. | Intersex children have the right to autonomy , which means the right to grow up and decide for themselves whether they want any procedures, such as hormonal treatment or surgery, performed on their bodies. No one, including the intersex child's parents or doctors, should be allowed to make that decision for them because they may choose an intervention that the intersex person would not wish for themselves. Preserving the intersex child's autonomy means avoiding making personal, irreversible decisions so that when the child is older, they can express their gender and change (or decide not to change) their body in just the ways they want. |
| Medical Necessity | For a transgender person, medical treatment related to their transition (such as hormones or surgery) is sometimes medically necessary. Not all transgender people want transition-related medical treatment, and if an individual does not want medical treatment, it is not necessary for that person. However, when a transgender person requests hormonal or surgical treatment from a doctor because treatment will alleviate their gender dysphoria, that treatment is medically necessary for them. Scientific studies have shown that providing transition-related treatment has health benefits for transgender people, and that denying such care causes harm. | For an intersex person, medical treatment related to their hormones, genitals, or reproductive organs is medically necessary either when (1) there will be adverse physical health effects on the intersex person if the procedure is not carried out, e.g., if a child born with no urinary opening needs one constructed so that urine can leave the body, or (2) an intersex person is able to provide informed consent and requests the treatment in order to alleviate gender dysphoria or feel more at home in their body. It is not medically necessary to perform genital or gonadal surgery on an intersex child without their consent when the goal is to make their body look more typically male or female and/or to make their medical providers or parents feel more comfortable. No scientific studies have shown benefit to intersex people from medically unnecessary surgery, but such surgeries are known to cause harm. |