

Provincial Updates 2012 - Alberta

August 24, 2012

1. The information you provide pertains to which province or territory?

Province or territory

Please select

AB

2. Indicate today's date

Month

Day

Year

Please select

August

24

2012

3. First and last name

4. Trans-related affiliation (e.g.: GP serving the trans communities, civil rights advocate or lawyer, social worker, surgeon, member of an advocacy group, mental health professional, gender studies student, etc...)

Psychiatrist providing assessment services for Alberta

5. Do GPs accept trans patients?

Yes

Ten at least

6. If your answer above is positive, are GPs willing to initiate hormone treatment?

Yes

7. If your answer above is positive, are those services provided in...

Urban setting?

8. Are there GPs who specialize in trans health care?

Yes

four

9. If your answer above is positive, are those services provided in...

Urban settings?

10. If your answer is negative, where are trans clients referred?

No Response

11. Is there trans health training offered to health professionals interested in trans health?

No

12. Is there a "community of practice" of health professionals (by that we mean the health professionals serving trans communities getting together to exchange referrals, knowledge and support)?

No

**13. Are the following health professionals seeing trans clients/patients?**

	Yes	No
Psychiatrists	X	
Psychologists	X	
Counselors	X	
Social Workers	X	

*Comments:*

**14. If yes, how many of these professionals see trans clients/patients? (approx. is OK)**

Psychiatrists - 3

Psychologists - 6

Social Workers - 2

**15. If yes, is it privately or publicly funded?**

	Private pay	Public pay
Psychiatrists		X
Psychologists	X	
Counselors	X	
Social Workers	X	

*Comments:*

**16. If yes, is there a yearly quota imposed by the health ministry on how many clients/patients will be covered, if so, how many?**

Psychiatrists - 0

Psychologists - 0

Counselors - 0

Social Workers - 0

**17. Do these professionals write letters of support for hormone therapy or surgery?**

Yes

[Large empty green box for response]

**18. Are Surgical Reassignment Surgeries performed in your province?**

	Yes	No
Mastectomy with chest contouring	X	
Mastectomy without chest contouring	X	
Hysterectomy	X	
Oophorectomy	X	
Metaoidioplasty		X
Phalloplasty		X
Breast augmentation	X	
Tracheal shaving	X	
Facial feminization		X
Penectomy		X
Orchiectomy	X	
Vaginoplasty		X

*Comments:*

**19. If yes, are these surgeries privately or publicly funded?**

	Private pay	Public pay
Mastectomy with chest contouring		X
Mastectomy without chest contouring		X
Hysterectomy		X
Oophorectomy		X
Metaoidioplasty		
Phalloplasty		
Breast augmentation	X	
Tracheal shaving	X	
Facial feminization		
Penectomy		
Orchiectomy		X
Vaginoplasty		

*Comments:*

**20. If SRS are publicly funded, are there clients sent out of province or country for their surgeries, which ones?**

	Yes	No
Mastectomy with chest contouring		
Mastectomy without chest contouring		
Hysterectomy		
Oophorectomy		
Metaoidioplasty	X	
Phalloplasty	X	
Breast augmentation		
Tracheal shaving		
Facial feminization		
Penectomy		
Orchiectomy		
Vaginoplasty		X

*Comments:*

**21. If SRS are publicly funded, and clients/patients wish to go out of province or country, is this permitted?**

	Yes	No
Mastectomy with chest contouring		
Mastectomy without chest contouring		
Hysterectomy		
Oophorectomy		
Metaoidioplasty		X
Phalloplasty		X
Breast augmentation		
Tracheal shaving		
Facial feminization		
Penectomy		
Orchiectomy		
Vaginoplasty		X

*Additional comments?:* All patients from Alberta needing SRS, defined as genital surgery, have to go out of Province to Montreal. Severe diabetics or patients with SLE go to the USA in this case. otherwise patients are not allowed to go out of country.

22. If SRS are publicly funded, is there a yearly quota imposed by the health ministry on how many surgeries will be covered, if so, how many?

Metaoidioplasty - 25

Phalloplasty - 25

Vaginoplasty - 25

23. Do trans patients/clients have access to post-surgery (SRS) care?

	Yes	No
GPs		X
Emergency room		X
Urologist		X
Gynecologist		X
Surgeon		X

Comments:

24. Are there endocrinologists seeing trans patients?

Yes

12

25. Where are endocrinological referrals sent if not available in your province?

No Response

26. Are there speech therapists seeing trans patients?

	Yes	No
FTM		X
MTF	X	

Comments:

27. If your answer above is positive, is the service private pay or is it publicly funded?

	Private pay	Publicly funded
FTM		
MTF		X

Comments:

28. Are there health professionals accepting referrals for gender independent (gender non-conforming) children and adolescents?

Yes

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**29. Are puberty blockers being prescribed?**

	Yes	No
GPs		X
Pediatric Endocrinologists	X	

*Comments?:* Regarding the number of surgeries that are publicly funded the number is 25 for all SRS, unofficially their is no limit

**30. Are there health care professionals who treat trans patients (children or adults) with reparative (or corrective) therapy?**

Yes

In my opinion this is ethically wrong and against the APA official stance

**31. Is electrolysis for transwomen privately or publicly funded?**

Privately

**32. Are hormone readiness assessments provided?**

Yes

**33. If hormone readiness assessments are available, are they provided in**

Urban setting?

**34. If hormone readiness assessments are available, what is the protocol used?**

WPATH SOC7

**35. If hormone readiness assessments are available, how many health professionals provide them? (Approx. number OK)**

3

**36. If hormone readiness assessments are available, is RLE required?**

Yes

The individual must be fully transitioned for at least a couple of months, but many exceptions are made.

**37. If hormone readiness assessments are available, are there any specific public insurance requirements?**

No

**38. If hormones readiness assessments are available, who provides them?**

Psychiatrist?

Alberta Health only accepts referrals from a Psychiatrist or from a few family docs who specialize in this area

**39. Are SRS readiness assessments provided?**

Yes

**40. If SRS readiness assessments are available, are they provided in**

Urban Setting?

**41. If SRS readiness assessments are available, what is the protocol used?**

WPATH SOC7

**42. If SRS readiness assessments are available, how many health professionals provide them? (Approx. number OK)**

3

43. If SRS readiness assessments are available, is RLE required?

Yes

one year minimum

44. If SRS readiness assessments are available, are there any specific public insurance requirements?

No

45. If SRS readiness assessments are available, who provides them?

Psychiatrist?

46. Are there trans peer support groups in your province?

Yes

There are many. Contact Simone at outpatient Dept Grey Nuns Hospital 780 735 7119 for a printed list

47. Are these support groups professionally led or volunteer (non-professionally) led?

	Yes	No
Professionals		X
Volunteers	X	

If yes, please share the name/s of the group/s and their contact info/website:

48. Are there support groups for gender independent (gender non-conforming) youth?

Yes

Tammy Gartner, Institue of Sexual Minorities and Services, Faculty of Education, University of Alberta Also Camp FyeFly held each year Youth Understanding Youth,

49. Are these support groups professionally led or volunteer (non-professionally) led?

	Yes	No
Professionals	X	
Volunteers	X	

Comments:

50. Are there support groups for gender independent (gender non-conforming) children?

No

51. Are these support groups professionally led or volunteer (non-professionally) led?

No Response

52. Is there support for families and loved ones?

Yes

Limited-provided at the gender service at the Grey Nuns Hospital



**53. Are these support groups professionally led or volunteer (non-professionally) led?**

	Yes	No
Professionals		
Volunteers	X	

Comments:

**54. Are there advocacy groups for trans human rights In your province?**

	Yes	No
Grassroots organizations		X
Lawyers organizations		X

If yes, please share the name/s of the group/s and their contact info/website:

**55. Do you have any more comments?**

The new minister of health and the new Premier of Alberta are very 'user friendly'. Lobbying is underway to create a new gender service within the new Edmonton clinic so as to be able to expand services.

**56. Is there trans Human Rights legislation being proposed?**

Yes

To allow transgendered individuals, when they change their names, to easily say no to having this posted in the Alberta Gazette.

**57. Does your Education Ministry have LGBT anti-bullying policies in public schools?**

No

**58. Is there legislation that does not follow WPATH SOC v.7 being proposed?**

**No Response**

**59. Can FTM have the sex marker on their birth certificate changed?**

Yes

Must have a total hysterectomy and two physician letters documenting this

**60. Can MTF have the sex marker on their birth certificate changed?**

Yes

Following a vaginoplasty (or orchidectomy) with two physician letters documenting this

**61. Can FTM change the sex marker on their driver's license?**

Yes

Letter from a mental health worker specializing in transgenderism

**62. Can MTF change the sex marker on their driver's license?**

Yes

Same as above

**63. Do you have an positive and ongoing relationship with "political" allies in your provincial legislature?**

Yes



**64. Is there other information and data you would have liked to see in this survey? If so, please share:**

I don't know where else to put this--The public school board for Edmonton recently ratified and put into action a very strong anti GLBTG bullying and discrimination policy with severe penalties for teachers who become aware but do nothing about this. The document is very comprehensive and impressive.

**65. What are you doing in your province that is successful?**

Lobbying for the reinstatement of public funding for SRS which was successful. Lobbying to change the Motor Vehicle Act which was successful. Public education etc to increase trans awareness.

**66. What are the next steps in expanding accessible competent trans health care in your province?**

Lobbying to have the location of the gender clinic moved to the new Edmonton Clinic to provide opportunities for expansion in a more positive operating atmosphere. Lobbying to get the Department of Health to pay for laser hair removal for M to F, also tracheal shaves, etc. Lobbying to get Department of Health to allow patients to be funded to have SRS in other countries if they so choose.