

Resolution: Res-S-14-04

**Subject: PROVIDING ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE CARE TO INDIVIDUALS
DIAGNOSED WITH GENDER DYSPHORIA**

1 **WHEREAS** the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), the
2 leading authority for Standards of Care (WPATH-SOC^[1]) in its field, has been recognized by
3 such organizations as the American Medical Association, American Psychological
4 Association, National Association of Social Workers, and the American College of
5 Obstetricians and Gynecologists^[2] and

6 **WHEREAS** as The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) supports GENDER IDENTITY
7 NON-DISCRIMINATION^[3a, 3b], stating that the AOA supports the provision of adequate and
8 medically necessary treatment for transgender and gender-variant people, and opposes
9 discrimination on the basis of gender identity and

10 **WHEREAS** currently most healthcare plans exclude treatments listed within WPATH-SOC^[4]
11 from being covered for individuals diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria as a “rare disease,”
12 despite research proving efficacy of the WPATH-SOC ^[5,6], and

13 **WHEREAS** the cost to employers that are now providing plans utilizing the WPATH- SOC
14 have shown very little or no actual cost difference from those that exclude these
15 standards.^[7] Therefore be it

16 **RESOLVED**, that the official policy of SOMA shall be that treatments for individuals that
17 have been diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria should be consistent with the **most current**
18 standards of care as established by WPATH, and be it further

19 **RESOLVED**, that ~~the official policy of~~ SOMA shall **explore partnerships with health**

20 ~~insurance companies that encourage all health insurance companies to specifically~~
21 recognize that appropriate care shall be provided for individuals diagnosed with Gender
22 Dysphoria. ~~, and be it further~~

23 ~~**RESOLVED**, that it shall be the official policy of SOMA to encourage its affiliate~~
24 ~~organizations to ensure coverage offered is consistent with the policy of SOMA as~~
25 ~~established by this resolution, including the insurance policies SOMA itself offers, and be it~~
26 ~~further~~

27 ~~**RESOLVED**, that SOMA recommends the AOA to adopt these or equivalent policies~~

Submitted by:

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Action Taken:

Date:

Effective Time Period: *Ongoing*

Attached Whitepaper:

http://www.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/Transgender_Healthcare_White_Paper_4.pdf

Citations:

1. Coleman, E., W. Bockting, M. Botzer, et al. "Standards of Care for the Health of Transsexual, Transgender, and Gender-Nonconforming People, Version 7," *International Journal of Transgenderism*. no. 13 (2011): 165–232.
http://www.wpath.org/uploaded_files/140/files/IJT_SOC_V7.pdf.
2. Lambda Legal, "Professional Organization Statements Supporting Transgender People in Health Care." Last modified July 02, 2013.
http://www.lambdalegal.org/publications/fs_professional-org-statements-supporting-trans-health.
- 3a. American Osteopathic Association, "H438-A/10 GENDER IDENTITY NON-DISCRIMINATION", AOA 2013 Policy Compendium. (2013): 78.
<https://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/about/leadership/Documents/policy-compendium.pdf>
- 3b. American Osteopathic Association, "AOA Code of Ethics, Section 3." Last modified July 2011. <http://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/about/leadership/Pages/aoa-code-of-ethics.aspx>.
4. Deena, Fidas, Jamison Green, and Wilson André. Human Rights Campaign Foundation, "Transgender-Inclusive Health Care Coverage and the Corporate Equality Index." Last modified 2012. <http://www.hrc.org/transbenefits>. (Attached)
5. Colizzi, M., R. Costa, and O. Todarello. "Transsexual patients' psychiatric comorbidity and positive effect of cross-sex hormonal treatment on mental health: results from a longitudinal study," *Psychoneuroendocrinology*. (2013): 65-73.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24275005>.
6. Gómez-Gil E., L. Zubiaurre-Elorza, I. Esteva, et al., "Hormone-treated transsexuals report less social distress, anxiety and depression," *Psychoneuroendocrinology* (2012): 662-70,
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21937168>.
7. Herman, Jody L. The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law, "Costs and Benefits of Providing Transition-Related Health Care Coverage in Employee Health Benefits Plans." Last modified September 2013. <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Herman-Cost-Benefit-of-Trans-Health-Benefits-Sept-2013.pdf>.