

General Information

Please use the Web Portal Gender Affirming Primary Care (GAPC) form to claim funding for this service.

This programme aims to reduce financial and access barriers to Transgender and Gender Diverse Healthcare for individuals enrolled in West Coast Health.

Programme Objectives

- Improve access to healthcare for gender diverse and transgender individuals
- Improve clinician support for these services in Te Tai o Poutini / West Coast
- Reduce the financial barrier to accessing these services for individuals seeking them.

Programme Information

This programme includes funded peer support- supported by Qtopia, readiness assessments, and appointments for eligible individuals.

Funded primary care appointments

Eligibility Criteria

Patient must have all of the following:

1. Aged >14 years old
2. Enrolled in West Coast Health (PHO)
3. Seeking Gender Affirming Primary Care

Programme Process

1. Patient presents for transgender/gender diverse healthcare need.
2. Clinician registers patient for Gender Affirming Primary Care Programme.
3. Clinician claims for funding reimbursement based on the number of appointment slots used for the patient
 - a. 1 Standard time slot is the length of a normal appointment for your GP practice (15min or 20min depending on the practice)

- b. Single appointment = 1 slot, double appointment = 2 slots, triple appointment = 3 slots.
4. Clinician refers patient to appropriate referrals indicated in claiming form.
5. Please note: a clinician can refer through ERMS to GAPC Local Expert for further care. The Local Expert will then make claims through the Halcyon portal for their visits.

Copayment:

- No copayment can be charged to patient.

Payment

- Reimbursement for each time slot:
 - Enrolled Patient: \$34.50
 - Casual Patient: \$57
- Maximum 10 of clinic/appointment slots can be claimed per person.
- Maximum 4 time slots can be claimed per appointment (claim)
- The funding follows the patient. The clinician/practice who saw the patient enters the claim.
- No clawbacks can arise as a result of appointments from this programme.

Local Experts

- If a provider needs external support prescribing or managing care for patients with gender incongruence, **the provider can refer the patient to a Local Expert for this care.**
- If a provider needs advice regarding gender incongruence care and/or gender affirming hormone therapy, the provider **can seek advice from a Local Expert**
- Local experts will see patients for Gender Incongruence consults and initiation of Gender Affirming Hormone Therapy **not** for other primary care issues.
- If the practice is happy continuing care and managing care of the patient after initiation of hormone therapy, the local expert will **transfer back to GP practice for ongoing maintenance and support of hormone therapy and gender affirming care.**

Gender Affirming Primary Care

Practice Information

Last updated: Mar 2025



- Send ERMS referral:
 - General Practice > General Practice Referral
 - Please select funder as “private” (this means the PHO is paying for it, NOT the patient)
 - Please select either Buller or Te Nīkau and write in the provider you are referring to.
 - Example Referral: [CLICK HERE](#)

Readiness Assessments (Psychological Assessments)

Eligibility:

- Enrolled in West Coast Health
- Age 19 years and younger

20 years old and older will be funded on a case-by-case basis only in circumstances of extreme hardship. Please email qualityteam@westcoasthealth.nz for pre-approval.

Amount Funded: \$1000 (cost of appointment)

Process:

- Follow Health Pathways for Transgender and Gender Diverse [adults/youth]
- If a Readiness Assessment is indicated per the pathway, send referral through ERMS.
- The Readiness Assessment clinic will invoice West Coast Health.

- Health Pathways:

Gender-affirming care readiness assessments

- [West Coast Health funded readiness for gender affirming care assessment \(RA\)](#) ^

West Coast Health funded readiness for gender affirming care assessment (RA)

These are a funded psychological assessment for transgender and gender diverse (TGD) patients aged 19 years or younger that are required prior to the initiation of gender affirming hormone therapy. Assessments are performed by private mental health clinicians with a special interest in gender affirming care working in the community.

If your patient has complex needs, seek advice via ERMS: Community Programmes > Transgender Hormone Assessment with an outline of the patient's situation and your contact details, and a member of team will contact you.

1. Check the [criteria](#) ^.

Criteria

Aged 19 years or younger

Exclusions

Severe mental health issues that may impact ability to consent. If present, these must be reasonably controlled.

Alternative pathway recommended

For mild to moderate mental health conditions that would benefit from support, consider [Brief Intervention Talking Therapies](#).

Peer Support Referral:

Coming Soon.

Additional Resources

PATHA Guidelines for how to initiate Gender Affirming Hormone Therapy

<https://patha.nz/Guidelines>

Health Pathways – Transgender and Gender Diverse (TGD) Health in Adults

<https://canterbury.communityhealthpathways.org/400110.htm>

Health Pathways – Transgender and Gender Diverse (TGD) Health in Youth

<https://canterbury.communityhealthpathways.org/462505.htm>

Health Pathways – Transgender and Gender Diverse (TGD) Specialised Assessment

<https://canterbury.communityhealthpathways.org/502957.htm>

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I claim Gender Affirming Hormone Therapy Injections under this programme?

- The smallest time slot is 1 time slot.
- Injections tend to be ½ time slot with lower cost to the patient.
- So, if you are using 1 time slot for only a hormone injection please keep in mind this is being reimbursed as a full appointment and the goal of this programme is to fund the quality care for the patients.
- Ideally patients will be taught how to do injections at their homes. Claiming time slots for teaching the patient how to do injections at home, including appointments to watch observe them do their injections safely, is an appropriate use of this funding.
- If the patient does not want to do their own injections:
 - Option A: No charge to patient and you claim every other hormone injection through Halcyon.
 - Option B: You do teaching, vital signs, and a check-up with the hormone injection as more of a package of care.
 - Option C: Practice specific option that fulfils the intentions of programme.

Can a non-GP/NP healthcare provider claim time slots in this programme?

Yes, but only if it is for a gender affirming hormone therapy injection. Please indicate this on the claiming form.