Gender Affirming Health Care

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| Health & Counseling Services at Hampshire College provides treatment that is individualized, student-centered, and focused upon overall wellness in mind and body.  |
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at Hampshire College

**Health and Counseling Services at Hampshire College** is committed to providing all students with quality medical and counseling services in a safe and respectful environment.

 **ABOUT HORMONE THERAPY**

If you’re thinking about starting or continuing gender affirming hormone therapy, call to schedule an intake appointment with either [Sara Aierstuck, NP or Dawn Beckman, NP,](https://www.hampshire.edu/health-services/health-and-counseling-services-staff) both with years of experience in LGBTQ healthcare. First appointments will be on Zoom and last about 30 minutes.

### The first visit is dedicated to discussing treatment goals, reviewing your health history, discussing effects of hormones, and obtaining lab tests. We inquire about other health needs you might have for overall wellness.

If you are transferring care from another clinic, and have previous consultations and labs, hormone therapy may begin at the first visit. Please have your previous office send/fax copies of your medical records.

While your hormone doses are first being adjusted, office visits and some lab testing every 4-8 weeks are required, depending upon your individual needs. When your doses reach a level that works well for you, follow-up visits and labs happen less often, typically every 6-12 months.

Changes produced by hormones may take a variable amount of time. How rapidly changes happen can be impacted by your doses, your own body’s metabolism, and how quickly you increase doses. People vary in their treatment goals and we respect the pace at which you want to see changes.

We can help answer questions about insurance, confidentiality, and costs at your first visit.

Health & Counseling Services

 413 559-5458 phone 413 559-5583 fax

healthservices@hampshire.edu

# Injections? Prescription refills?

If you’re prescribed an injected hormone, the Hampshire nursing staff will teach you, a partner, or a friend[, how to self-administer the shot.](https://fenwayhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/COM-1880-trans-health_injection-guide_small_v2.pdf) We make sure you have a sharps container to dispose of needles and syringes safely. If you feel more comfortable, we can administer your shots for as long as needed.

Prescription refills should be available long enough to get you to the next anticipated follow-up appointment.

# More resources for TRans and nonbinary students

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Contact Us

Hampshire College Health and Counseling

Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code

Telephone

Email

Website

COUNSELING AND SUPPORT GROUPS

* It’s important to have a supportive community. Call 413 559-5458 or email healthservices@hampshire.edu for more information or to participate in therapy groups at HCHCS or a support group at UMass.
* [Individual counseling is available to all Hampshire students](https://www.hampshire.edu/health-services/counseling-services) and encouraged for students starting hormone therapy and transition. Call 413 559-5458 to schedule a mental health appointment at HCHCS.

CHANGE NAME AND GENDER MARKERS

* At some point in your transition, you may want to [change your name on campus through the Hub](https://www.hampshire.edu/central-records/preferred-first-name-and-pronoun-policy) (which will change your name at Health & Counseling), and with your state and federal government. Depending on the state where you live, changing the gender marker on your state identification or license, may require a letter from a provider.
* [Transequality.org](https://transequality.org/) is a one-stop hub for name and gender change information. Find out how to get a legal name change where you live and update your name/gender on state and federal IDs and records.
* A letter from a physician is required to change your [Social Security or passport name and gender marker](https://transequality.org/know-your-rights/passports); HCHCS is happy to help you. It’s best to change your driver’s license first. The federal government consults a register of state driver’s licenses to speed processing of federal forms. You do not need a letter from a health care provider in order to change your gender marker on a Massachusetts driver’s license.

THINKING ABOUT SURGERY?

* If you need specialized health services such as electrolysis, surgery, or voice therapy, the staff at Health and Counseling can help you with referrals to area specialists and help with navigating insurance coverage.
* The [Hampshire Student Health Insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield](https://www.bluecrossma.com/common/en_US/medical_policies/189%20Gender%20Affirming%20Services%20%28Transgender%20Services%29%20prn.pdf) covers office visits, hormone therapy, and most gender-affirming surgeries.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

* The [Queer Community Alliance](https://www.hampshire.edu/qcac/queer-community-alliance-center)  and the [Center for Feminisms](https://www.hampshire.edu/cff/center-for-feminisms) offer support and programming for LGBT students at Hampshire College and can be a great way to connect with other students.
* [The Stonewall Center at UMass Amherst](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Caskolnik%5CDownloads%5C%E2%80%A2%09https%3A%5Cwww.umass.edu%5Cstonewall%5C) hosts events and offers resources for everything from legal issues to recommended electrolysis services and area support groups. All events are currently virtual.
* [The Trans and GNC group at UMass](https://www.umass.edu/counseling/node/529) provides a confidential and supportive space to discuss topics related to identity, relationships, transitioning, intersectional identities, mental health, and other topics as they arise. The UMass group is open to students from all 5 colleges and is currently meeting via Zoom.