

Surveillance of Gender Identity Disorder Beginning November 2011

Surveillance Study of Childhood/Adolescent Gender Identity Disorder in the UK & Republic of Ireland

Gender Identity Disorder (GID) is an important condition where gender identity differs from biological sex. Some describe this as feeling they are in the wrong body or that their gender and body do not match. Individuals with GID experience significant distress, particularly with the physical changes of puberty. There are increased risks of self-harm, suicide and eating disorders. While a psychological condition, concerns about possible hormone abnormalities and inter-sex conditions can prompt initial referral to Paediatricians. This will be a joint study between the British Paediatric Surveillance Unit and the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Surveillance System. Clinicians reporting a case of possible GID in a child aged 4-15.9 years will be sent a brief questionnaire to establish basic clinical details about the individual concerned. A follow-up questionnaire will be sent at 1 and 2 years post-notification. This study will provide important population-level data about the incidence, clinical presentation, co-morbidities and persistence of GID at one and two years. These data will inform service provision for and clinical management of this vulnerable group of patients.

BPSU surveillance will be undertaken for 13 months, commencing in **NOVEMBER 2011**.

REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS: Please report any child/young person aged 4-15 years inclusive (i.e. 4-15.9 years) meeting the case definition criteria below for the first time in the last month. *If uncertain or awaiting the results of further investigations please report the child.*

CASE DEFINITION:

BOTH the following criteria (1 and 2) should be fulfilled:

1. A strong cross-gender identification for ≥ 6 months

(i) In children <12 years, this requires 2 or more of the following:

- a) In boys, preference for cross-dressing or simulating female attire; in girls, insistence on wearing only stereotypical masculine clothing;
- b) Strong preferences for cross-sex roles in make-believe play or fantasies of being the other sex;
- c) Intense desire to participate in stereotypical games/pastimes of the other sex;
- d) Strong preference for playmates of the other sex.

(ii) In adolescents ≥ 12 years, this requires 1 or more of the following:

- a) Frequent passing as the other sex (adopts clothing, hairstyle of the other sex)
- b) Desire to live and be treated as the other sex
- c) Belief that their feelings and reactions are typical of the other sex

2. a) Distress or unhappiness with his/her biological sex

(e.g. Stated dislike of/aversion to or self-inflicted injury to their primary or secondary sexual characteristics, request for physical intervention to alter their physical sexual characteristics to those of the other sex)

OR

b) Stated desire to be or belief that he/she is or should be the other sex

WEBSITE: <http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/bpsu/GID>

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ETHICAL APPROVAL: This study has been approved by London Bloomsbury REC (REC Ref.: 11/LO/1512) and the National Information Governance Board (NIGB) (Ref: ECC 8-02(FT4)/2011) under Section 251

FURTHER INFORMATION: If you would like any advice regarding the eligibility of a particular case for inclusion in the study please contact: Faye Sweeney: email f.sweeney@ich.ucl.ac.uk telephone 0207 9052190