

**Title:** Planning for LGBTQ+ Patients in the Athletic Training Facility

**Speaker(s):** Kristine Ensign, PhD, AT, ATC, Emily Munson, MS, ATC

**Abstract:** Many athletic trainers (ATs) want to create more inclusive environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) patients, but may be unsure how to do so. Common concerns include ATs being unfamiliar with policies regarding LGBTQ+ athletes, and wondering how to modify their practices and facilities to better serve LGBTQ+ patients.

The National Athletic Trainers' Association Code of Ethics directs ATs not to discriminate against patients on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation. There are also state laws and policies from high school leagues and college athletic associations that affect how ATs care for LGBTQ+ patients. Understanding policy helps protect both the AT and LGBTQ+ patient. Additionally, evidence shows LGBTQ+ patients have unique healthcare experiences and needs. In order to create more inclusive environments, ATs need to be aware of how to modify their practices, facility, and documentation. The focus of the presentation is to provide ATs with an overview of the legal and policy considerations regarding LGBTQ+ patients and to provide actionable strategies for ATs to create a more welcoming environment for their LGBTQ+ patients.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Participants will be able to describe why it is important to create LGBTQ+ inclusive environments in athletic training facilities.
2. Participants will be able to explain the laws, rules, and protections regarding LGBTQ+ individuals in their state, and will be able to help their LGBTQ+ patients (particularly gender minorities) navigate sports participation.
3. Participants will leave with actionable strategies to be more inclusive of LGBTQ+ patients, and will be able to create new athletic training forms, policies, and procedures that are LGBTQ+ inclusive.

**Domain:** Domain 5 Healthcare Administration and Professional Responsibility

**Level of Difficulty:** Essential