***What to expect before Gender Affirmation Surgery?***

**The Process:**

**An initial intake interview via phone with our Nurse Navigator.** This is your first point of contact with the clinical team, where you will review your medical history, discuss which procedures you’d like to learn more about and what is required, and develop a plan for next steps. Documentation needed before surgery:

* Labs and medical records documenting your hormone therapy.
* Medical records from your primary physician (these will be requested by the clinical team).
* Surgical readiness referral letters from mental health providers documenting their assessment and evaluation.
* Information about which prescription and over-the-counter medications you are currently taking.
* Insurance information.

**Initial Consult appointment with your surgeon.** Once we have all the required documentationyou will be given an appointment to discuss the specifics of your gender affirming surgery. Your appointment will be with Dr. Loree or Dr. Burke and one of our advanced practitioners which will include:

* Assessment of your medical health status and readiness for major surgical procedures.
* Discussion of your gender affirmation goals and assessment of which procedures may be most appropriate to help you in your journey.
* Specific details about the procedures you and your surgeon identify, including the risks, benefits and what to expect after surgery.

***If you SMOKE you will not be scheduled for surgery until you are nicotine free. You will be tested for the presence of nicotine by either a blood or urine sample prior to the next steps.***

***Next steps following your initial consult …***

**Insurance clearance** Once you have met with our team we will submit your medical records along with your mental health letters to your insurance company to obtain authorization for surgery. This can take up to 30 days or more. We will notify you once you have been approved and schedule the next step.

**Final Discussion with the surgeon** At this appointment you will meet with your surgeon again to discuss any question or concerns you may have and you will go over the procedure one more time. You will leave this appointment with your surgery date.

**A preoperative anesthesia and medical evaluation.** Two to four weeks before your surgery you will come to the hospital for a chest x-ray, labs, and an ekg which will ensure that you are healthy enough for surgery.