

MAKING THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE

The inclusion of LGBTQ+
health needs and concerns
within nursing and midwifery
pre-registration programmes

LGBTQ+ HEALTH RESEARCH PROJECT FINDINGS

THIS RESEARCH PROJECT, funded by the Burdett Trust for Nursing, involved collaborators from Schools of Nursing and Midwifery across the United Kingdom and Ireland. A mixed-methods study using a survey and qualitative interviews was undertaken to identify the views and experiences of academics in relation to LGBTQ+ health within nursing and midwifery pre-registration programmes.

The objectives of the study were to:

- Identify the current content within nursing and midwifery pre-registration programmes in relation to LGBTQ+ health
- Identify best practice and education innovation regarding LGBTQ+ health within nursing and midwifery pre-registration programmes
- Develop content for a Best Education Practice Guide regarding LGBTQ+ health within nursing and midwifery pre-registration education programmes

The survey was completed by 29 academics, with 12 selected to participate in a follow-up in-depth qualitative interview.

Analysis of the data from the survey and interviews identified five themes:

- (i) Variable programme content
- (ii) Some academics are including LGBTQ+ content with a need for consistency
- (iii) LGBTQ+ health linked to equality and diversity education
- (iv) There are barriers to LGBTQ+ health that need to be addressed
- (v) There is evidence of LGBTQ+ health best practice examples

Based on the study findings six evidence-based recommendations are made:

- (i) Strategic level planning and commitment is required from Nursing and Midwifery regulators and the Royal College of Nursing and the Royal College of Midwives in the UK and Ireland to fully embed LGBTQ+ health within programmes
- (ii) Schools of Nursing and Midwifery should review their pre-registration programmes to include LGBTQ+ health concerns
- (iii) LGBTQ+ health learning aims, outcomes and assessments should be developed and reflected in nursing and midwifery pre-registration programmes
- (iv) The LGBTQ+ health best education practice guide should be used to support curriculum developments within Schools of Nursing and Midwifery
- (v) Schools of Nursing and Midwifery should set up LGBTQ+ health resource groups to support the integration within programmes
- (vi) Schools of Nursing and Midwifery should provide LGBTQ+ health continuing professional development for academics.

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