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Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+ Individuals (LGBTQ+): Occupational Therapy's Role Promoting Access and Reducing Disparity

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Learning objectives

1. Attendees will differentiate gender presentation, sexual orientation, sexual behavior, and gender identity.
2. Attendees will articulate at least 3 ways in which LGBTQ+ individuals experience healthcare disparities.
3. Attendees will develop a plan of care by applying knowledge related to LGBTQ+ specific needs.

An oral presentation with interactive discussion and case application.

LGBTQ+ individuals demonstrate specific and unique healthcare needs and experience healthcare disparities (Meyer, 2014). In their survey of U.S. based occupational therapists, Javaherian, Christy and Boehringer found 64% of respondents reported receiving no education regarding LGBT issues during their schooling (2008). In order for authentic occupational therapy intervention to occur both LGBT clinicians and clients need an established safe and respectful environment (Beagan et al., 2012). Occupational therapists are uniquely skilled in understanding the importance of occupational access and the risks associated with occupational deprivation. Occupational therapy professionals are well positioned to be change agents in practice settings and systems of care for their LGBTQ+ clients.