



OUR PATIENTS

COME FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE



UNDERSTANDING LGBTQ+ PATIENTS

Eating disorders disproportionately affect certain communities—including the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning or queer, intersex, asexual and/or ally recognized community. Research indicates that individuals identifying in this population are at higher risk for the development of an eating disorder. The factors contributing to the heightened rate of eating disorders in the LGBTQ+ community include:

- ✓ Bullying and discrimination
- ✓ Societal gender norms
- ✓ Disconnect from body due to gender dysphoria and/or discomfort with sexual orientation
- ✓ Loneliness (isolation, lack of acceptance in family, fear of rejection following coming out)

ACUTE's providers are committed to delivering empathic, evidence-based care to all patients experiencing a life-threatening medical crisis related to a severe eating disorder or advanced malnutrition caused by another diagnosis. Our experts *understand* and have vast experience treating the medical issues relevant to LGBTQ+ patients. Alongside world-class medical treatment, ACUTE's patients benefit from comprehensive psychiatric and behavioral support, in addition to substance abuse detox when necessary. Via consultation with Denver Health's renowned LGBTQ+ Primary Care & Health Services, ACUTE has unmatched capabilities to effectively treat LGBTQ+ patients touched by extreme eating disorders or severe malnutrition from another diagnosis.



JEANA COST
she/her/hers
Executive Director

“At ACUTE we are LGBTQIA+ competent, not just friendly. Our team has extensive training in LGBT-specific medical and behavioral health issues, and we collaborate closely with specialty LGBTQIA+ health services at Denver Health. As an ally, I am fortunate to work alongside our providers each day as we provide expert care with dignity and respect.



ADAM LEGGETT
he/him/his
Marketing Director

“Our team at ACUTE takes a comprehensive and active approach to openness, understanding that it truly impacts an LGBTQ person's ability to receive appropriate medical and psychiatric care and also live a supported and authentic life in recovery. As a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, I am proud to work daily with such compassionate providers.



CHERYL KORNFELD
she/her/hers
Clinical Psychologist

“Our approach is individualized and helps patients move forward and accept the compassionate care they deserve. I know many of my patients have appreciated transparency with respect to my personal experiences and understanding as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community. I'm proud to work in such an inclusive treatment environment.

OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR PATIENTS

Every person is powerful, beautiful and important. Every patient is seen, heard and validated.

PATIENT-CENTERED CARE

We will not make assumptions about your gender and your appearance. We will honor your gender and identity pronouns during initial assessment and throughout your care to observe and respect your authentic personhood. We will engage your support system, whether partners and family members identified as supportive by you; they will be informed and honored, regardless of their gender or legal status.

EMPATHY

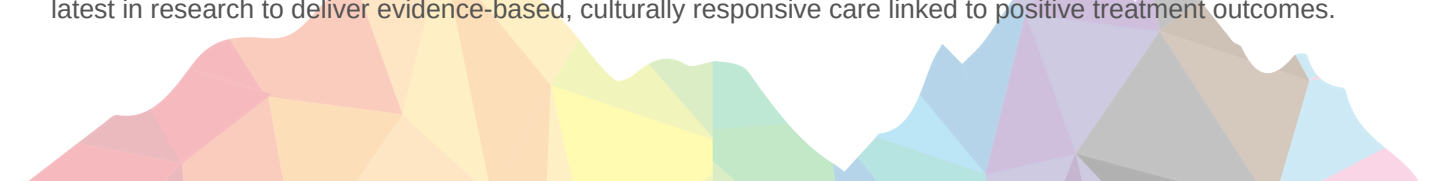
Our providers have a profound capacity to understand what another person is experiencing from within their frame of reference. Throughout your time at ACUTE, you will benefit from support and perspective from teammates who identify as LGBTQ+ as well as those who are thoughtfully trained in culturally responsive care. This means that our experts understand, relate to, and respectfully respond to the different backgrounds and identities of the patients they serve, with the goal of helping you live a healthy and affirmed life.

KNOWLEDGE

ACUTE's providers deliver clinically competent care. They are knowledgeable about LGBTQ+ issues, and the specific health needs of this patient population—particularly those issues related to complications of malnutrition and purging—and are respectful and affirming throughout the treatment process.

SPECIALIZATION

ACUTE teammates have published specific research related to treatment best practices in LGBTQ+ patients touched by extreme eating disorders, including this article detailing a heightened risk for recurrent refeeding hypophosphatemia in male-to-female transgender patient with anorexia nervosa. Our providers leverage the latest in research to deliver evidence-based, culturally responsive care linked to positive treatment outcomes.



EVERY JOURNEY BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP

The ACUTE Center for Eating Disorders & Severe Malnutrition provides comprehensive, evidence-based medical care for persons 15 years or older with the most extreme forms of eating disorders and/or severe malnutrition, *in a gender-diverse and inclusive environment.*

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILY MEMBERS:



REACH OUT

From the moment you reach out to us, we will provide support, education, and guidance to ensure that you or your loved one receives the care needed.



ASSESS YOUR NEEDS

Our admissions team will complete an intake assessment, collecting clinical and medical information to determine the need. We will review your insurance benefits and answer any questions.



TAKE THE NEXT STEP

From admission day on, a multidisciplinary treatment team will work with the patient to provide the skills and encouragement needed to foster lasting recovery.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:



Does ACUTE have experience treating LGBTQ+ patients?

Yes. In addition to experience with patient care, our experts have published many research articles related to LGBTQ+ patients and their needs.



What does culturally responsive care for LGBTQ patients at ACUTE look like?

Our patients have reported that ACUTE:

- Is comfortable with my sexual orientation and/or gender-expression
- Uses gender-neutral language
- Has private gender-neutral restrooms
- Has LGBTQ+ individuals on staff
- Has specific knowledge to deliver health care to LGBTQ+ people
- Has knowledge on transgender-specific and related health care needs

ACUTE

CENTER FOR EATING DISORDERS
& SEVERE MALNUTRITION
BY DENVER HEALTH

A CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

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