

SEX, LIES AND AMBIGUOUS GENITALIA: THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TRUTH TELLING MODEL FOR USE WITH INTERSEX PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Barbara Neilson MSW, Res. Dip. S.W., RSW

Adult intersex patients and activists have brought to the forefront many issues and concerns about the treatment of paediatric intersex patients. The medical community is finally taking a critical look at their past treatment of these patients, along with their present and future needs. There is recognition that truth telling for both patients and parents is a necessity. A continuing problem concerns parents and professionals asking how and when they should provide their children and patients with complete medical information. It is clear that there is not a "one size fits all solution", and clinicians need to meet with families to help them to develop a plan that will meet their own unique needs. This presentation drawing on research from the adoption field, and the HSC experience, will discuss the use of story telling and life books, as a way to share critically important and sensitive information, in a developmentally appropriate way.

Areas covered will include:

- The use of journaling and taping
- Development of a life book
- Developmental and educational needs for patients and families
- Roadblocks and reinforcement
- Use of the Sick Kids Child Physiology site

Presentation Type: Oral Presentation

Authorize Publishing: Yes

Contact information of Abstract Presenter:

Title: Ms.

Name: Barbara

Surname: Neilson

Institution: The Hospital For Sick Children

Address: 555 Univeristy Ave.

Toronto, Ontario

M5G1x8

Tel.: 416-813-6791

Fax.: 416-813-6746

E-mail: bneilson@sickkids.ca