

Marcus Bennett

Amy McNicoll

* Correspondence: Amy McNicoll, amy.mcnicoll@austincc.edu

ABSTRACT

Marcus Bennett is a clinical simulation case designed for nursing students to enhance their skills in patient-centered care, particularly with transgender individuals. The learning objectives focus on enabling students to understand the importance of gender-affirming communication, perform anatomy-based assessments of abdominal pain in transgender patients, recognize the significance of privacy and confidentiality, differentiate between ovarian cysts and ectopic pregnancy, and manage patient anxiety to build trust. The clinical scenario involves a 22-year-old transgender man, Marcus Bennett, who presents to the emergency department with sudden-onset severe lower right abdominal pain and nausea. Students are tasked with conducting a focused abdominal assessment, considering the patient's hormone therapy history, and addressing concerns related to gender identity and privacy. The case is useful in a curriculum for developing fundamental skills in effective communication, clinical assessment, and empathetic patient interactions, aligning with entry-level nursing competencies.

Keywords emergency medicine; abdominal pain; patient centered care

CASE OVERVIEW

Marcus Bennett, a 22-year-old transgender man, presents with sudden-onset severe lower right abdominal pain and nausea. The case explores anatomy-based assessment and gender-affirming communication.

INTENDED LEARNERS

Nursing Student

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the importance of gender-affirming communication in clinical practice.
2. Perform an anatomy-based assessment of abdominal pain in transgender patients.
3. Recognize the significance of privacy and confidentiality in healthcare for transgender individuals.
4. Differentiate between ovarian cyst and ectopic pregnancy in clinical presentation.
5. Manage patient anxiety and build trust through respectful interactions.

CLINICAL PRESENTATION

Name	Marla Bennett
Age	22
Sex	Other
Race / ethnicity	Multiracial Non-Hispanic
Height	5ft 8in
Weight	140 lbs

Chief complaint. Severe lower right abdominal and pelvic pain

History of present illness. Marcus Bennett, a 22-year-old transgender man, presents to the ED with sudden-onset severe lower right abdominal and pelvic pain, starting about three hours ago, accompanied by nausea. He reports a pain level of 7/10. He has been on testosterone for two years. His last menstrual period was approximately two months ago.

Past medical history. Hormone therapy with testosterone for past 2 years.

Past surgical history. None.

Past psychiatric history. None reported.

Social history. Works part-time as a retail associate. Lives with a roommate. Support person is his brother, Devon Bennett. He is bisexual.

Family history. No known significant family medical history.

Medications. Testosterone 100mg IM weekly

Allergies. NKDA

SIMULATED CHARACTER

Name. Marla Bennett

Demographics. 22-year-old transgender male

Personality and mood. Guarded but not hostile; softens with respect; anxious about privacy; weary of correcting gender details.

Identity, purpose and background. Marcus is a transgender man who is cautious in medical settings due to past negative experiences. He values privacy and does not wish his gender history to be broadcasted. He is knowledgeable about his anatomy and open to discussing it when asked appropriately.

Simulation behaviour. Only reveal gender history if asked directly and be cautious of privacy concerns. Respond respectfully to gender-affirming cues.

Opening line

Hi, I'm Marcus. I've been having really bad pain on my right side.

Procedures and actions available to the learner

Action	Result added to the chart	How the character responds
Check arm band	Marla Bennet, DOB 9/10/2004, MRN 0123456	I know it says my name is Marla...it is not. I go by Marcus and I identify as male and use he/him pronouns. Can you change that in the system?
Ask Reason for Visit / Chief Complaint		The pain in my lower right belly comes and goes, but it's pretty bad right now, maybe a 7 out of 10. It feels crampy and sharp at the same time.
Obtain Vital Signs	HR 108, BP 108/68, RR 20, Temp 99.1F	Are my vital signs okay?
Perform Focused Abdominal / Pain Assessment	Right lower quadrant tenderness to palpation. Patient observed guarding lower right abdomen, one knee drawn up, grimacing with movement.	The pain is in my lower right belly, maybe a 7 out of 10 right now. It feels crampy and sharp at the same time, and it started about three hours ago.
Can you tell me about any medications you are on?		I've been on testosterone for about two years now, through my endocrinologist. I haven't had any surgeries for my transition either, if that was your next question.
When was your last menstrual period?		My last period was maybe two months ago. The testosterone made my periods really irregular before they stopped completely
Pregnancy Test		Can I ask you something? Are you going to write down that I was tested for pregnancy, or that I could be pregnant? I really don't want 'possible pregnancy' written somewhere on my chart that lists me as female, somewhere that could out me to people I haven't told I'm trans.
Pelvic Ultrasound	Small ovarian cysts	Is everything okay?

Some actions reveal media in the simulation: Check arm band (image).

DEBRIEFING DIMENSIONS

Communication Skills (narrative)	Assesses the learner's ability to communicate respectfully and effectively with transgender patients, using appropriate pronouns and names.
Clinical Assessment (narrative)	Evaluates the learner's proficiency in conducting a thorough and anatomy-based clinical assessment.
Patient Privacy (narrative)	Measures the learner's attention to maintaining patient privacy and confidentiality.
Differential Diagnosis (narrative)	Examines the learner's ability to formulate and differentiate between potential diagnoses such as ovarian cysts and ectopic pregnancy.
Anxiety Management (narrative)	Assesses the learner's capability to manage patient anxiety and build trust through empathetic interactions.

COMPETENCY ALIGNMENT: AACN2026

Progression level. 1 - Entry

The case focuses on fundamental skills required for entry-level nursing practice, including effective communication, patient-centered care, and clinical assessment.

Domain 2: Person-Centered Care

Code	Competency	Rationale
2.1	Engage with the individual in establishing a caring relationship.	The case emphasizes the importance of building trust and managing patient anxiety through respectful and empathetic interactions, which is essential for establishing a caring relationship.
2.2	Communicate effectively with individuals.	Gender-affirming communication is a key learning objective, requiring effective communication skills tailored to the needs of transgender patients.
2.3	Integrate assessment skills in practice.	The case involves performing an anatomy-based assessment of abdominal pain, which requires integrating clinical assessment skills.
2.4	Diagnose actual or potential health problems and needs.	Learners must differentiate between potential diagnoses such as ovarian cysts and ectopic pregnancy, demonstrating diagnostic skills.
2.6	Demonstrate accountability for care delivery.	Maintaining patient privacy and confidentiality, especially for transgender individuals, reflects accountability in care delivery.

SIMULATION FORMAT

Platform	Figment Clinic
Format	Clinical encounter simulation with a full patient record
Synthesised voice	shimmer
Case first authored	September 2026

The interactive version of this case runs on the Figment Clinic platform. This article is the archival record of its content at the time of publication.

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