

# Insuring Transition

A few large American corporations such as Wells Fargo, American Express, and AT&T have added health insurance coverage for transgender employees who choose to undergo doctor-prescribed sex reassignment surgery, and more companies are expected to add the benefit soon.

According to a Wells Fargo press release, the financial giant elected to offer this benefit “to be competitive as an employer and also to support our comprehensive corporate commitment to diversity.”

Genital surgery is not the final obstacle in making a person’s appearance match the way he or she feels inside. For male-to- female transsexuals, undergoing facial reconstruction may be even more important because it will affect how they are perceived and treated in public. The same is true with breast removal surgery for female-to-male transsexuals. Yet standard insurance plans usually dismiss both as cosmetic, even though people with untreated Gender Identity Disorder are at high risk of suicide and those who get treatment become better workers.



Joanne Herman, author of ‘Transgender Explained for Those Who Are Not,’ writes “If you are transsexual, living as anything other than that is a very bleak experience. It’s amazing how much happier I am, how much more productive, social and involved I am.”