

American Academy of Pediatrics says it will review evidence on safety of gender care and surgery for children, but keeps current treatment recommendations

The American Academy of Pediatrics backed gender-related treatments for children on August 3, reaffirming its [position from 2018](#) on a medical approach that has since been banned in 19 states.

But the influential group of doctors also took an extra step of commissioning a systematic review of medical research on the treatments, following similar efforts in Europe that found uncertain evidence for their effectiveness in adolescents.

Critics across the political spectrum — including a small but vocal group of pediatricians — have been calling for a closer look at the evidence in recent years, particularly as the number of adolescents who identify as transgender has [rapidly increased](#).

The treatments are relatively new, and few studies have tracked their long-term effects. Health bodies in [England](#) and [Sweden](#) have limited access to the treatments after carrying out systematic reviews, the gold standard for evaluating medical research.

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Some scientists criticized the decision to continue to recommend the treatments for young people before completing a rigorous review.

The move is “very clearly putting the cart before the horse,” said Dr. Gordon Guyatt, a clinical epidemiologist at McMaster University who helped develop the field of [evidence-based medicine](#).

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