

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I have been a pediatrician at Piedmont Pediatrics for 20 years and look forward to many more years working with my colleagues and my patients here in Concord. Because of my relationship with my patients, their families and the community, I am writing to share with you an important change in my life and to help explain why this change is necessary.

I am taking some time away from work in March. When I return a few weeks later, I will begin living my life more authentically as Laura Levin, a transgender woman. You may not be familiar with this term, but a transgender or transsexual person is a normal, healthy person whose gender identity does not match their physical gender.

There are many studies about this medical condition and its causes, but that is not why I am writing you today. As someone who has dedicated my adult life to caring for my patients and their families, it is important to me to communicate openly, as the relationship between a caregiver and the patient and family is very important.

I want to assure you that the only thing changing about me is my appearance. The excellent care your family has received at Piedmont Pediatrics will not change. When I return to the practice in March, I hope you will see that I am the same person at my core that I have always been – a physician who cares deeply about patients, who provides compassionate, excellent care, and who is committed to patients' wellbeing and health. Being a woman does not define me. It just happens to be a part of who I am that will now be visible to everyone else.

I'm sure you have a lot of questions. Therefore, over the next several weeks, and again for several more weeks after I return, I will be holding open office hours to meet and speak openly and honestly with the parents and guardians of my patients. My intention is to help everyone understand and be comfortable with this transition. Please contact Customer Care at 704-355-8363 for more information on these sessions and to schedule time with me.

I know this may be difficult to accept, and you may be concerned with how to talk to your children about this transition. I understand those feelings; please be assured that I am prepared to help with them. I have resources available for parents and guardians, so please contact me or Customer Care at 704-355-8363 if you would like more information.

I look forward to many more years of providing care for you and your child. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your life.

Warm regards,

Hal Levin, MD