



DELIVERING SAME-SEX ACCOMMODATION

Declaration of Compliance 2017-18

There was one reported breach of same-sex accommodation within the facilities to admit 10 or more patients at any one time during 2017/18. (NB: If any site does not have the facilities to admit 10 or more patients at any one time, there is no requirement to report a breach: Department of Health November 2010)

The breach occurred within an older adult ward and was escalated and resolved within thirty-six hours. Throughout this period actions were implemented to safeguard the patient and maintain privacy and dignity at all times.

Delivering Same-Sex Accommodation

Every patient has the right to receive high quality care that is safe, effective and respects their privacy and dignity. Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust is committed to providing every patient with same sex accommodation, because it helps to safeguard their privacy and dignity when they are often at their most vulnerable.

Patients who are admitted to any of our hospitals will only share the room where they sleep with members of the same sex and in those remaining areas where the Trust does not have single bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, same sex toilets and bathrooms will be close to the bed area.

Sharing facilities with members of the opposite sex will only happen by exception based on clinical need e.g. on some wards facilities such as assisted bathrooms are used when required.

What does this mean for patients?

Patients admitted to Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust can expect to find the following:

Same Sex-accommodation means (standard national definition):

- Same-sex wards – a ward with all facilities, including dedicated toilet and washing facilities, occupied solely by men or women.
- Single rooms with adjacent single sex toilet and washing facilities (preferably en-suite)
- Same-sex accommodation within mixed sex wards (i.e. bays or rooms which accommodate either male or female not both) with designated single sex toilet and washing facilities within or adjacent to the bay or room

It is possible that there will be both male and female patients on the ward, but they will not share your sleeping area. You may have to cross a ward corridor to reach your bathroom, but you will not have to walk through opposite-sex areas.

You may share some communal space, such as day rooms or dining rooms, but there will be female only designated day areas on your ward. It is very likely that you will see both male and female patients as you move around the hospital.

There will be both male and female nurses, doctors and other staff who work on your ward, and they may require access into your bedroom area, however you will also have the choice and opportunity to request a member of staff of either gender as your allocated professional – every effort will be made to meet any such request.

What are our plans for the future?

The Trust continues to ensure that these standards are met, by regular visits to wards and in discussions with clinical teams and patients. Any future development and refurbishment work would seek to improve the patients' experience.

How will we measure success?

We will undertake compliance audits and include questions on patient experience of same sex-accommodation within appropriate patient surveys. We will monitor feedback received to improve the services delivered. The Trust will also use its existing Incident Monitoring Procedures to monitor any issues arising with these standards and our Board of Directors will receive regular monthly reports.

What do I do if I think I am in mixed sex accommodation?

We want to know about your experiences. Please contact the Patient Experience and Involvement Team if you have any comments on the numbers below:

Freephone: 0800-587-7720

Telephone: 0121-612-8030

You can find out more about raising a concern, complaint or compliment under the **Contact Us** menu of this website.