

DELIVERING SAME-SEX ACCOMMODATION

Declaration of Compliance

There were no breaches recorded of same-sex accommodation for the period 1 April 2012 - 31 March 2013.

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.

Mixed sex accommodation has been eliminated in our Trust. 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):

- The **room where your bed is** will only have patients of the same sex as you.
- Your **toilet and bathroom** will be just for your gender and will be close to your bed area.

It is possible that there will be both men and women 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 women only day areas on your ward. It is very likely that you will see both men and women 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 coming into your bedroom area, however you will also have the opportunity to request a member of staff of your own

gender as your allocated professional – every effort will be made to meet any such request.

If you need help to use the toilet or take a bath or shower (e.g. you need a hoist or special bath) then you may be taken to a “unisex” bathroom used by both men and women, but a member of staff will be with you, and other patients will not be in the bathroom at the same time.

Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust will not turn patients away just because a “right-sex” bed is not immediately available.

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 ward teams. Any future development and refurbishment work would maintain or improve standards in this area.

How will we measure success?

We will include questions on patient experience of same sex-accommodation within appropriate patient experience surveys and will monitor feedback received to identify any weaknesses.

The Trust will use its existing Incident Monitoring Procedures to monitor ongoing compliance with these standards and the board receives a monthly report.

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

We want to know about your experiences. Please contact the Patient and Public 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 making a concern, complaint or compliment under the **Contact Us** menu of this website.