

Same Sex Accommodation 2012

Declaration of compliance University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

We are proud to confirm that we are compliant with the Government's requirement to eliminate mixed – sex accommodation, except when it is in the patient's overall best interest, or reflects their personal choice.

Every patient has the right to receive high quality care that is safe, effective and respects their privacy and dignity. University Hospital Birmingham 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 same sex toilets and bathrooms will be close to their bed area. Sharing with members of the opposite sex will only happen by exception based on clinical need (for example where patients need specialist equipment such as Critical Care and High Dependency Areas or when patients choose to share (for instance in renal dialysis or outpatient treatment areas)).

What does this mean for patients?

Other than in the circumstances set out above, patients admitted to University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust can expect to find the following:

Same sex-accommodation means:

- 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, and it is very likely that you will see both men and women patients as you move around the hospital (e.g. on your way to X-ray or the operating theatre).

It is probable that visitors of the opposite gender will come into the room where your bed is, and this may include patients visiting each other.

It is almost certain that both male and female nurses, doctors and other staff will come into your bed area.

If you need help to use the toilet or take a bath (e.g. you need a hoist or special bath) then you may be taken to a "unisex" bathroom which can only be used by one patient at a time, but a member of staff will be with you, and other patients will not be in the bathroom at the same time.

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

We want to know about your experiences. Please ask to speak to the Senior Sister on the Ward you are in or ask someone to Contact the Matron for the area or the Site Manager (who is always a Senior Nurse 24 hours per day).if you have any comments or concerns.