

Delivering Same-Sex Accommodation Declaration of Compliance

The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is pleased to confirm that we are compliant with the Government's requirement to eliminate mixed sex accommodation, except where it is in the patient's overall best interest, or reflects their personal choice. We have the necessary facilities, resources and culture to ensure that patients who are admitted to 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 when clinically necessary, for example, where patients need specialist equipment such as in our intensive care or high dependency units, or where patients actively choose to share, for example, our haemodialysis units.

Our performance with regard to delivering same sex accommodation is reported regularly to the Trust Board.

31st March 2011.

What does this mean for patients?

Other than in the circumstances set out above, patients admitted to Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS 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 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.

The NHS will not turn patients away just because a “right-sex” bed is not immediately available

What are our plans for the future?

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust will continue to monitor compliance with single sex accommodation. Staff will remain pro-active in monitoring this.

How will we measure success?

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust will monitor this through CQC in-patient surveys, exception reporting to NHS Leeds, local surveys, patient engagement and reports to the Trust board

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

We want to know about your experiences. If you have any comments or concerns please contact the Trust Patient Relations Department

Contact details are:-

Tel: (0113) 2066261

Minicom: (0113) 2066018

Fax: (0113) 2066146

E mail: patient.relations@leedsth.nhs.uk

Out of office hours the Patient Relations Department has a 24 hour answer phone.