



Same-sex accommodation

For a better life



Your privacy, our responsibility

We want to do everything we can to make sure you have the best possible experience while you're an inpatient with us.

We believe that providing same-sex accommodation is an important part of protecting your right to privacy and ensuring that you are treated with dignity and respect.

This leaflet explains what we're doing to provide same sex accommodation and what this means for you.

"It's got to be good for your recovery if you're feeling okay about the ward you're in."

Female patient, 30-45

What is same-sex accommodation?

For a trust to say that it has same-sex accommodation, it must provide sleeping areas and toilet and washing facilities that are for men or women only and these areas should be clearly labelled.

This will mean different things at different sites. You could be:

- In a same sex ward where the whole ward is occupied by either men or women only
- In a single room, or
- In a mixed ward, where men and women are in separate bays or rooms.

Toilet and washing facilities should be easy to get to, not a long way from your bed. You shouldn't have to go through accommodation or toilet or washing facilities used by the opposite sex to get to your own.

Why is same-sex accommodation so important?

People tell us that being in same-sex accommodation makes a big difference to how comfortable and relaxed they feel while they are in hospital. Having to share accommodation with members of the opposite sex can threaten people's privacy and dignity at a time when they may already be feeling vulnerable. Some people also have cultural or religious reasons for not wanting to share accommodation with members of the opposite sex.

What are we doing about same-sex accommodation?

We want to give people the option of using same-sex facilities where it is possible so we now have the following in place across all our services:

- Separate areas for men and women on our mixed wards
- Female-only lounges alongside our communal lounges and dining areas
- Additional staff training about same-sex accommodation.

"It's a stressful time. The less stress you can have, the better you're going to be."

Male patient, 30-45

Will there be times when same-sex accommodation isn't possible?

NHS regulations mean that same-sex accommodation should be maintained at all times but in exceptional circumstances the need for fast effective treatment may be greater than the need to provide same-sex accommodation.

This might happen if you need urgent, highly specialised or high-tech care. In this situation our staff would be expected to protect your privacy and dignity, keep you informed and move you into same-sex accommodation as quickly as possible.

What next?

Our new assessment and treatment services, such as our development at Farnham Road Hospital in Guildford, will have single bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms situated within single sex sleeping and recreation areas.

"You just feel more relaxed with only women around."
Female patient, 30-45

Find out more

Further information is available on our website at www.sabp.nhs.uk/aboutus/dssa.

If you would like this information in another format or another language:

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