

Delivering Same Sex Accommodation Declaration of Compliance

Every patient has the right to receive high quality care that is safe, effective and respects their privacy and dignity. Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust is committed to providing every patient with same sex accommodation to safeguard their privacy and dignity when they are often at their most vulnerable.

We are proud that mixed sex accommodation, as defined by the Department of Health, has been eliminated in our organisation. Patients who are admitted to any of our services will in most cases sleep in single room accommodation. Patients will only share an adjoining room where they sleep with members of the same sex, and same sex toilets and bathrooms will be close to their bed area. Sharing bathroom and toilet facilities with members of the opposite sex will only happen by exception, based on clinical need. Where patients need specialist equipment such as a hoist or assisted bath, patients will be escorted and assisted by members of our nursing staff. We are therefore pleased to confirm that we are compliant with the Government's requirement to eliminate mixed sex accommodation. If our compliance should fall short of the required standard, we will report it and we have systems in place to support this through the Deputy Director of Nursing.

What does this mean for patients?

Other than in the circumstances set out above, patients admitted to Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation trust can expect to find the following:

- Single room accommodation
- The room where your bed is, if shared, will only have patients of the same sex as you
- Your toilet and bathroom will be just for your gender, and will be close as possible to your bed area

It is possible that there will be both male and female patients on the ward, but they will not share a 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. Female only lounges are available in all services. It is almost certain that both male and female nurses, doctors and other staff will come into your bed area in order to provide you with the care you require.

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

What are our plans for the future?

We are continuing to implement our Estates Strategy, which outlines an extensive capital investment programme for the improvement of in-patient accommodation. This year these include development of new services on the Prestwich site. Policies, procedures, and training resource packs are in place to support Delivering Same Sex Accommodation, and Privacy and Dignity requirements. The Deputy Director of Nursing and Lead Nurse provide leadership and direction for local service Matrons to ensure that quality care is delivered in safe, clean environments.

How will we measure success?

This is measured by getting feedback from patients about their experiences whilst in our care.

The national annual in-patient surveys, patient forums, Family and Friends test, PLACE assessments, Infection Control audits and Customer Care reports will provide opportunities for this. The Trust has also developed in collaboration with service users a quarterly patient experience feedback questionnaire that provides us with regular feedback on patient experiences. Reports will go to the relevant Trust committees and action plans will be developed and monitored locally to continually improve the quality of patient experience.

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

We want to know about your experiences. If you have any concerns about the above and you want to talk to someone about this then you should contact the Deputy Director of Nursing on through switchboard 0161 773 9121