

Why is same-sex accommodation important?

Service users/patients have told us that being in same-sex accommodation makes a big difference to how comfortable and relaxed they feel while they're in hospital. Having to share accommodation with members of the opposite sex can have a negative impact on people's privacy and dignity at a time when they may already be feeling vulnerable.

Some service users/patients also have cultural or religious reasons for not wanting to share accommodation with members of the opposite sex.

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

If a service user/patient needs urgent or highly specialised treatment that can only be given on a certain ward, or area of a ward, they may need to share accommodation with members of the opposite sex. This means that you may be in a room next to someone of the opposite sex but you will never have to share a bay with someone of the opposite sex. You may have to walk through members of the opposite sex's accommodation to reach sleeping or bathing facilities. If either of these situations occur plans will be put in place to maintain your safety, privacy and dignity requirements. Sometimes, the need for fast, effective treatments is greater than the need to provide same-sex accommodation. In this situation, staff will keep you informed and move you into same-sex accommodation as soon as possible.



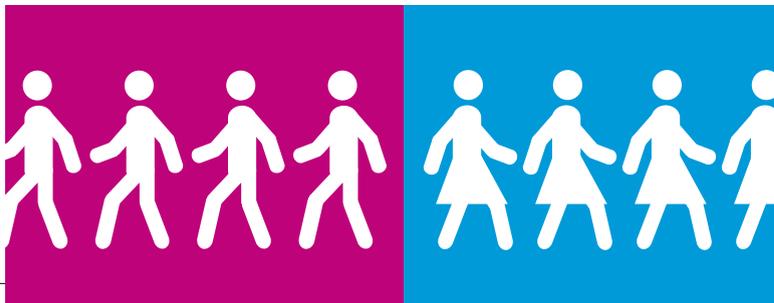
If you have any concerns about same sex accommodation or privacy and dignity requirements then you can speak to the Trust's Privacy and Dignity Leads:

Deputy Director of Nursing or
Corporate Matron on
0161 772 4304

Review Date: July 2013

We are committed

to delivering same-sex accommodation with dignity and respect in a safe, clean environment



We are committed to making your stay more comfortable at Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

As a service user/patient, you deserve privacy, and you deserve to be treated with dignity and respect in a safe, clean environment.

By making these considerations our priority, we are committed to making your hospital experience as comfortable as possible, by providing same sex accommodation and ensuring that your care is delivered with dignity and respect.

This leaflet explains how we are delivering same-sex accommodation, in all but rare and exceptional cases.

What is same-sex accommodation?

For a hospital 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. You could be:

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

What is a ward?

A ward is where a team with appropriate specialist skills treats a group of service users/patients.

Within a mixed ward, same-sex accommodation is provided by single rooms or same-sex bays and toilet facilities.

A bay is a sleeping area with multiple beds that is fully enclosed and access is by a single door or double door. The entrance may be partially glazed to enable staff to clinically observe service users/patients. Each bed area is separated with a solid partition.

Privacy and Dignity

We attach the highest importance to ensuring the privacy and dignity of all our service users/patients. We believe small things matter and make a difference e.g. service users/patients being called by their preferred name. We are committed to providing the very best care for all. We believe the care we deliver should be safe, effective, focused on the individual in order to promote recovery.

The Trust is taking up "The Dignity Challenge" produced by the Department of Health, this is set out below. The challenge will ensure staff within this Trust strive to treat all with dignity and respect, and preserve their privacy.

The Dignity Challenge

High quality services that respects people's dignity should:

1. Have a zero tolerance of abuse.
2. Support people with the same respect you would want for yourself or a member of your family.
3. Treat each person as an individual by offering a personalised service.
4. Enable people to maintain the maximum possible level of independence, choice and control.
5. Listen and support people to express their needs and wants.
6. Respect people's right to privacy
7. Ensure people feel able to complain without fear of retribution.
8. Engage with family members and carers as care partners.
9. Assist people to maintain confidence and a positive self-esteem.
10. Act to alleviate people's loneliness and isolation.