

## **SAME-SEX ACCOMMODATION**

### **REPORT FOR TRUST BOARD – 29 NOVEMBER 2012**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This paper reaffirms the Trust position of declared compliance with single sex accommodation standards.

#### **2. PROGRESS**

The Trust continues to focus on standards of privacy and dignity on all of our wards through our system of regular ward reviews and audits.

For the year 2012-2013 to date, the Trust has reported full compliance with the standard.

As part of everyday business, gender specific bed issues are included in daily capacity planning meetings.

Sometimes when emergency activity is exceptionally busy it has been necessary to admit patients to mixed-sex bays in these units and we are continuing to work with these units to avoid this by changing the gender profile of bays which makes the management of patient flow internally challenging. There remains the potential occasions when clinical issues may have to take priority. Escalation processes are in place to manage such an issue.

#### **3. BREACH REPORTING**

There have been no breaches reported this financial year.

#### **4. DECLARATION OF COMPLIANCE**

All NHS Trusts and NHS Foundation Trusts are required to publish a formal annual declaration of compliance with the national same-sex accommodation requirements.

The proposed declaration of compliance for 2012, is attached as an appendix to this paper, and was submitted to the Trust Board and accepted in June 2012.

## **5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This paper has provided the Trust Board with an update on progress in our work to ensure full compliance with the national same-sex accommodation standards.

The Trust Board is recommended to:

1. NOTE the progress report on ensuring compliance with same-sex standards and performance last year
2. NOTE the declaration of compliance with the national standards

Rachel Barlow  
Chief Operating Officer  
19<sup>th</sup> November 2012

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## **SAME-SEX ACCOMMODATION STANDARDS ANNUAL PUBLIC DECLARATION**

### **Our Approach**

Every patient has the right to receive high quality care that is safe, effective and respects their privacy and dignity. Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust (SWBH) is committed to providing every patient with same-sex accommodation because it helps to safeguard their privacy and dignity.

### **Level of Compliance**

SWBH is able to confirm full compliance 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.

All our wards at City Hospital, Sandwell General Hospital, Rowley Regis Hospital and Leasowes Intermediate Care Centre are compliant with the national standards.

### **What does Same-Sex Accommodation Mean?**

Same-sex accommodation means:

- the room where your bed is will only have patient of the same-sex as you;
- the 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 the 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 to 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 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 away patients just because a “right-sex” bed is not available immediately.

### **What This Means in Our Hospitals**

In our Trust this means that:

- Patients admitted to Sandwell Hospital, Rowley Regis Hospital or the wards in the Sheldon Block at City Hospital are admitted to same-sex bays clearly separate from the main ward corridor. Patients have access to separate male and female toilet and washing facilities on each ward.
- Patients admitted to the main wards at City Hospital are admitted to same-sex wards.
- Patients admitted to Leasowes Intermediate Care Centre are admitted to single rooms with ensuite separate washing and toilet facilities. A shared large shower room is used however for patients unable to use their en-suite facilities as a result of their clinical condition.
- We are committed to ensuring high standards of privacy and dignity for all our patients all of the time. These standards are regularly audited on all of our wards to ensure they are maintained,

There are a small number of specialist areas where we may not always be able to separate men and women including:

- the Critical Care Units at both hospitals;
- the Coronary Care Units at both hospitals;
- the Acute Stroke and Brain Injury unit at City Hospital
- Recovery areas in our Theatres.

Our Emergency Assessment Unit at Sandwell Hospital and the Medical Assessment Unit and Surgical Assessment Unit at City Hospital operate with a series of same-sex bays. Sometimes when we are exceptionally busy it has been necessary to admit patients to mixed-sex bays in these units and we are continuing to work with these units to avoid this in future.

### **What are our plans for the future?**

We are continuing to work to improve standards of privacy and dignity including:

- continuing our focus on standards of privacy and dignity on all of our wards through our system of regular ward reviews and audits;
- ensuring that high standards of privacy and dignity are built into the estates plans.

### **How do we measure success?**

We measure our success in meeting these standards in a range of ways including:

- patient surveys – both the annual national patient survey and our rolling programme of local surveys;
- monitoring the number of occasions on which we breach these standards – these are reported monthly to our board in public;
- regular reviews of standards of care on all of our wards;
- regular (six-monthly) reports to the Trust Board on progress with delivering same-sex accommodation.

### **Who do I contact for more information?**

For more information or if you have any comments or concerns please contact:

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This declaration was approved by the Trust Board on 28th June 2012. It will be formally reviewed annually.