

## Delivering Same-Sex Accommodation Declaration of compliance

**We are proud to confirm that mixed sex accommodation has been virtually eliminated in our hospital.**

### **Further information on our work to deliver same sex accommodation**

Every patient has the right to receive high quality care that is safe, effective and respects their privacy and dignity. The Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust is committed to providing every patient with same sex accommodation, because it helps to safeguard their privacy and dignity when they are often at their most vulnerable.

We are proud to confirm that mixed sex accommodation has been virtually eliminated in our trust. Patients who are admitted to our hospital 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 by exception based on clinical need (for example where patients need specialist equipment such as in Critical Care, or when patients choose to share such as in day care areas).

### **What does this mean for patients?**

Other than in the circumstances set out above, patients admitted to the Royal United Hospital Bath 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?**

Please see our [Strategic Delivery Plan](#)

**How will we measure success?**

- Progress reports go to Trust Board every month.
- We undertake Trust wide audits to monitor same sex accommodation standards.
- We have undertaken nationally required local surveys of patient experience of same sex accommodation.
- We use Patient Experience Tracker (PET) devices to help us monitor views of our patients.

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

We want to know about your experiences. Please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01225 825656 or [pals@ruh.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@ruh.nhs.uk) if you have any comments or concerns.