

Delivering Same-Sex Accommodation Declaration of compliance

Community Health Buckinghamshire (CHB) can confirm that mixed sex accommodation has been virtually eliminated in all of its premises. Service users who are admitted to any of our hospital settings will, in the main, access environments and care facilities that are explicitly gender specific.

Where clinical accommodation caters for both genders, service users will only share the room where they sleep with members of the same sex. Furthermore same sex toilets and bathroom areas are located close to or immediately adjacent to the bedroom areas.

CHB recognises that every service user has the right to receive high quality care that is safe, effective and respects privacy and dignity and is committed to ensuring same sex accommodation is provided at a time when service users are often at their most vulnerable in order to safeguard individual service users' privacy and dignity.

What does this mean for patients?

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 unit, 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 during your stay in hospital except in those areas that are explicitly gender specific.

It is almost certain that both male and female staff will come into your bed area.

How will we measure success?

Ongoing Arrangements

In declaring compliance against the single sex accommodation standards Community Health Buckinghamshire (CHB) acknowledges it will be equally important to maintain robust processes and establish the necessary controls to guarantee and enhance these standards going forward. CHB proposes to build on its practice to date in line with the guidance issued by the Department of Health. CHB is confident that these measures will provide appropriate assurances to our users of service and Commissioners.

- **Measuring the Patient Experience**

CHB has currently adopted a system to capture the experience of patients within the inpatient estate which has been reported on a monthly basis. The process has provided useful information in relation to the service areas and provided positive assurance about the practices in place.

The Trust intends to build on and enhance this activity utilising an IT solution that will enable questionnaires and feedback to be collated in real time so that responses can be immediately actioned in response to stated patient need and concern. The Trust also has plans to undertake routine audit to demonstrate compliance with the single sex standards.

Conclusion

Community Health Buckinghamshire (CHB) believes that this self declaration is an accurate and open statement of our current position. CHB believes the assessment undertaken gives a very clear set of outcome orientated processes by which effective and qualitative contractual arrangements can be determined to monitor compliance. CHB recognises the real importance of these standards and is committed to maintaining and enhancing practice in this area.

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

We want to know about your experiences. Please contact Rachael Corser, Executive Lead for Clinical Excellence and Organisational Development on 01296 310025 or via email on Rachael.corser@buckspct.nhs.uk if you have any comments or concerns.