

Delivering Same Sex Accommodation – Improvements Made

What we have done:

- We have redesigned part of Woodpecker ward to create a Surgical assessment area, and since it opened in March 2009 4 bedded bays have remained same sex.
- The Acute Assessment unit moves patients on a daily basis to create male or female 4 bedded bays as required and varies according to the number of male or female admissions at any one time.
- All wards have separate 4 bedded bays for men and women.
- The Trust has a Women's and Children's Directorate with beds dedicated to gynaecology, maternity and paediatric services.
- On most wards, 4 bedded bays and single rooms have en suite facilities. In critical care areas washing/toilet facilities are adjusted according to male/female requirements with door signs adjusted accordingly.

Why we did it:

- National patient satisfaction survey results tell us that patients do not want to sleep in mixed sex accommodation.
- Same sex accommodation is one aspect of the work we are undertaking to improve privacy and dignity for patients whilst they are in hospital.

When we did it:

- Improving privacy and dignity for patients is one of several initiatives aimed at improving quality of care and the patient experience whilst considerable work has been done over recent years several projects were commenced in January 2009.

When it's not possible for Same Sex Compliance, i.e. Critical Care:

- In some emergency situations same sex accommodation is not always possible.
- If for reasons of safety we need to put both male and female patients in the same four-bedded bay, we commit to moving those patients into same sex accommodation as soon as possible. This now only happens on rare occasions and is closely monitored by the Director of Nursing.
- As a new hospital our clinical care beds in intensive care and coronary care all have single cubicles.