

If at any time you are anxious that your privacy and dignity are not being properly respected, please tell the nurse who is looking after you so that your action can be taken to resolve your concerns



The NHS exists to provide high quality care. We will not turn patients away just because a “right-sex” bed is not immediately available. Therefore, while we try to offer you single sex accommodation, we cannot always guarantee it.

**Same Sex
Accommodation**

We know that patients care about whether their privacy and dignity are properly respected when they come into hospital. Providing same sex accommodation is part of our responsibility and commitment to respecting your privacy and dignity.

We want you to feel confident when you come into hospital and this leaflet explains the arrangements for looking after you in same sex accommodation.

Same sex-accommodation is when:

Your bed is in a room or bay occupied only by patients of the same;

Toilets and bathrooms are for the sole use by patients of the same gender and are nearby.

Our commitment on Same Sex Accommodation

In most wards and specialist units, such as the Emergency Assessment Units, treat both sexes but have separate sleeping areas, toilets and washing facilities for men and women.

Toilets and bathrooms might be across a ward corridor but you will not have to walk through areas occupied by the opposite sex to reach them.

We will always try to place you in same sex accommodation. However, in exceptional circumstances and for a brief period, you might be in a mixed sex bay. In this event, we will tell you why and explain when you will be moved to same sex accommodation. We promise to do our best to arrange this as quickly as possible.

In a few areas such as Recovery and Intensive Care, men and women are accommodated in the same area for medical reasons.

Where this happens, we will try to respect your privacy and dignity by, for example, using screens.

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 bathroom used by both men and women. To assist you and safeguard your privacy, a member of staff will accompany you and other patients will not be allowed to use the bathroom at the same time.

While every effort will be made to provide a single sex accommodation, it is impossible within the Hospital to separate the sexes totally. Some communal spaces, such as day rooms or dining rooms, are shared by both sexes and as you move around the hospital (e.g. on your

way to X-ray or the operating theatre) it is very likely that you will see both men and women patients.

Equally, there will be men and women visiting the ward; these include doctors, nurses and staff and patients visiting each other.