

Report Summary			
Report to	Public Trust Board	Date of Meeting	3 May 2022
Report Title	Compliance Statement for Same-Sex Accommodation Standards	Agenda Item	9.4
Executive/ Non-Executive Lead	Daljit Athwal, Chief Nursing Officer	Report Author(s)	Caroline Hughes, Associate Director of Nursing
Report Previously Discussed at	N/A		

Purpose of the Report		
To inform the Trust Board of the current Same-Sex Accommodation position.	For Approval	✓
	For Discussion	
	For Information	

Recommendations and Action Required
The Trust Board is asked to approve the Compliance Statement for Same Sex Accommodation Standards which will then be published on the Trust's website.

Impact (is there any impact arising from the report on the following?)			
Quality	✓	Equality	✓
Finance		Risk	
Performance	✓	Compliance	✓
Workforce		Legal	

Trust Values (which of the Trust Values is the report helping to deliver?)			
Effective open communication		Respect and Dignity	✓
Excellence and Safety	✓	Local Healthcare that inspires confidence	✓
Challenge but support			

Relationship to the Board Assurance Framework (BAF) and Risk Register	
Are any existing risks on the BAF/Risk Register affected?	N/A
Identify the BAF/Risk Register risk ID and description – explain how the risk has been affected – reduced or increased as a consequence of the evidence within the report. N/A	
Do you recommend a new entry to the BAF and/or Risk Register is made as a result of this report? If yes, describe the new risk.	N/A

George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust

Report to Public Trust Board – 3 May 2022

Compliance Statement for Same-Sex Accommodation Standards

Executive Opinion and Assurance

The Chief Nursing Officer is able to provide assurance that George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust (GEH) continues to work on delivering same-sex accommodation in line 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.

If our care should fall short of the required standard, we will report it both internally via Datix and externally via the Strategic Data Collection System.

Executive Summary

Every patient has the right to receive high quality care that is safe and effective and respects their privacy and dignity. The 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.

Our aim is to always provide access to safe acute clinical care and saving lives will always be our priority, however providing access to same-sex sleeping areas has become an important part of the culture of our clinical teams.

We have the necessary facilities, resources and culture to ensure that 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 in in-patient areas should only happen by exception, for example in the event of a life threatening emergency or where patients need constant observation for example in the Intensive Care Unit, the Coronary Care Unit, resuscitation areas or in the immediate post-operative recovery rooms.

Sharing accommodation with the opposite gender may occur, in certain areas in the Trust, where there has been agreement by all of the patients concerned and where the patients' dignity is able to be maintained at all times. Examples of such sharing include, where patients are receiving day case treatments such as chemotherapy; where patients are having minor surgery to extremities such as eyes, feet, hands, where they are not required to undress.

As a provider we are expected to have a zero-tolerance approach to mixed-sex accommodation, except where it is in the overall best interest of all patients affected. This is the case with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. A clinical risk based assessment will be carried out in the event of capacity constraints in the organisation, which will only be agreed by an Executive in hours, (Director on Call out of hours) in the event of a potential mixed-sex breach occurring.

This report brings to the attention of the Trust Board that during a reconciliation of the Trust's reporting system (Datix) it was identified that 5 Datix incidents had been submitted for mixed-sex accommodation breaches. These breaches have not currently been externally reported and the Trust is reviewing the process to understand how these can be reported retrospectively.

A preliminary review of these Datix indicates that in all cases there was a clinical need that resulted in patients of different genders being cared for in the same bay due to bed capacity constraints on the respiratory ward because of Covid-19. A deep dive will be undertaken by the Associate Director of Nursing and will be reported to the Trust Board in June 2022.

What does same-sex accommodation mean for our patients?

Same-sex accommodation means:

- The room where the patient's bed or trolley is will only have patients of the same-sex in it.
- The patient's toilet and bathroom will be just for the same gender and will be close to the patient's bed area.
- Our wards have single sex bays but have a mix of both men and women patients on the ward. Patients may have to cross a ward corridor to reach the bathroom, but they will not have to walk through opposite sex areas.
- Patients may share some communal spaces, such as day rooms, dining rooms and therapy areas, such as gyms and patients will see both male and female patients, staff and visitors as they move around the hospital (e.g., on their way to X-ray or the operating theatre).
- Whilst patients are in a same-sex environment though they will be treated by both male and female nurses, doctors and other staff who will come into the patient's bed space area.
- Patients who require help to use the toilet or take a bath (e.g., those that need a hoist or special bath) will be taken to a "unisex" bathroom used by both men and women, but a member of staff will be with the patient, and other patients will not be in the bathroom at the same time.
- Patients in the Emergency Department will experience same-sex areas. However, patients will mostly be cared for in their own separate cubicles, with dividing walls and curtains.

Plans for the future

All new inpatient developments will be compliant with same-sex accommodation standards going forward. Compliance with same-sex accommodation will continue to be monitored and reported monthly.

Any potential breach of the same-sex accommodation standards will be reported and investigated using a root cause analysis investigation methodology, to determine any lessons that can be shared to prevent a breach occurring in the future.

Measuring same-sex accommodation success?

Success will be measured through improvement in our patient experience scores through our patient questionnaires and through the National Inpatient Survey results.

Recommendations

The Trust Board is asked to approve the Compliance Statement for Same Sex Accommodation Standards which will then be published on the Trust's website.

Daljit Athwal
Chief Nursing Officer