

**If you need further information  
please speak to the Ward Manager or  
Matron for the ward or department.**

**Alternatively, please call the  
switchboard on:  
0151 426 1600  
and ask to be put through  
to the relevant ward.**

**This leaflet can be made available in alternative  
languages/formats on request**

Creation date — April 2010  
Updated – July 2015  
Review date — July 2018  
Produced by Senior Nurse, Corporate Nursing Team

**Switchboard  
0151 426 1600**

**Your  
Hospital  
Accommodation  
Patient Information Leaflet**

**Whiston Hospital  
Warrington Road  
Prescot L35 5DR**

## **As a patient you deserve privacy and to be treated with dignity.**

The NHS is committed to making sure that all patients receive high quality care that is safe, effective and focused on their needs.

The NHS Constitution states that all patients have a right to privacy and to be treated with dignity and respect.

We believe that providing same sex accommodation is an effective way of helping to achieve this goal and giving all patients the best possible experience while they are in hospital.

### **What is same sex accommodation?**

For a hospital to say that it has same sex accommodation it must provide sleeping areas and toilet and washing facilities that are for men or for women only. This will mean, within our hospital you could be:

- In a single room, or
- In a mixed ward, where men and women are in separate 4 bedded bays. All of the bays will have either male or female occupants but **won't** have both which means you will be cared for in a single sex bay.

### **Wards and bays—what difference does it make?**

- A ward is where a team with appropriate specialist skills treat a group of patients.
- Within a mixed ward, same sex accommodation is provided by single rooms or same sex bay and toilet facilities.
- A bay is a sleeping area with multiple beds that is fully enclosed by solid walls on three sides. The fourth side may be glazed or only partially enclosed to help staff to observe patients clinically.

## **Exceptions**

In the new Whiston Hospital it is unlikely we will ever have to mix our accommodation as we have increased the number of single occupancy rooms.

If a situation arises within an emergency area and we have to place a patient in a bay with a patient of the opposite sex, we will guarantee to maintain your privacy and dignity in that area and move you as soon as possible.

You will receive a written letter of apology and an explanation of why this happened.

### **Clothes whilst in Hospital**

Whilst in hospital you may wish to wear your usual day clothes, and this is perfectly acceptable. If, however, you choose to wear nightclothes, we will not take you through another area unless you are well covered and you feel comfortable and dignified.

However, if you decide to walk through the Hospital corridors or go into the day room on your ward wearing your nightwear, this is your choice.

### **Toilet and Bathroom facilities**

Signs on bathrooms, showers and toilets will clearly state whether the room should be used by male or female patients.

### **Doors to bays and side rooms**

Doors have several functions:-

- To help reduce cross infection
- Provide a quiet area for sleeping and resting
- To provide privacy

We would encourage our patients to ask for the door to be closed if they would like more privacy.