

Declaration of compliance for the Minimising of Mixed Sex Accommodation April 2013

St George's Healthcare NHS Trust is pleased to confirm that it is compliant with the Government's requirement to minimise mixed-sex accommodation, except when it is in the best interest of the patient or reflects their personal choice.

The trust has the necessary facilities, resources and culture to ensure admitted patients only share rooms, toilets and bathroom facilities with patients of the same sex. Sharing with the opposite sex will only occur when clinically justified, specialist equipment is required or expert care is needed for example Cardiac Intensive Care, General Intensive Care, Paediatric Intensive Care, Renal Unit, Hyperacute Stroke Unit.

If care should fall short of the required standard, we will report it and use the established audit mechanisms to ensure misclassification does not occur.

The Trust is committed to the privacy & dignity of patients; this forms an integral part of trust policy and practice. The Trust has recorded a number of breaches in the last year (2013/14). The majority of these have been as a result of patients being delayed whilst waiting for a bed in a specialist area following discharge from ITU. This is in the best interests of the patient and decisions are based on safe and appropriate care. Our Commissioners have agreed these breaches as clinically appropriate and as a result have not imposed any financial penalties. National guidance has now changed and we are no longer required to record the numbers of patients who are delayed in ITU although daily monitoring mechanisms remain in place as it is important to ensure we move patients out of ITU as soon as they are judged to be medically fit so that our intensive care capacity is available for patients who require this level of care.

Professor Alison Robertson. Chief Nurse and Director of Operations (February 2014).