

Healthcare and cultural beliefs

The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust serves the local community, which has an increasing diversity of cultures and languages.

Some cultures discourage contact between persons of the opposite sex and this causes confusion or even conflict when a patient is treated by a person of a different sex.

Under the NHS Act 1990, we have a duty to provide a proper standard of care to all our patients, but we do not have a duty to promise it will be delivered by a particular person of either sex.

On some occasions, as long as it does not affect our ability to care for others and the relevant staff are in agreement, we will make a reasonable effort to meet the patient's wishes and we may be able to comply with requests for a specific sex. However, this will be on an individual basis, depending on such circumstances as levels of staffing and the needs of other patients. Our prime aim will always be to provide a proper standard of care, regardless of the sex of the clinician (for further information please see the Trust-wide leaflet on '[Requesting same sex healthcare professionals](#)').

Patients and visitors to the Trust are reminded that verbal and/or physical abuse to Trust staff, other patients or visitors will not be tolerated. Any person found to be in breach of this may find their treatment withheld or we may make alternative arrangements for your treatment to be completed elsewhere.

(Equality Act 2010) prohibits discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief (or lack of religion or belief) in the provision of goods, facilities and services, in education, in the use and disposal of premises, and in the exercise of public functions.

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

MAT_0195

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Reviewed April 2009, April 2010, April 2011, Aug 2012, Nov 2014, November 2016, March 2019

Approved: Maternity Information Group & Patient Information Manager, April 2019

Review: April 2021