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| Policy/Procedure Name: | Mixed Gender Room Assignment |
| Number: | |
| Effective Date: | 02 AUG 2016 |
| Revision Date: | 31 MAY 2019 |

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| Manual: | Nursing |
| Section: | Administration |
| Pages: | 1 of 4 |

Purpose

To support the need for all gender cohorting on inpatient units.

Scope

The policy pertains to all staff members and physicians at Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC).

Policy Statement

Patients will be placed in rooms based on availability and clinical needs prior to preference of gender.

Procedure

1. Patients will be placed in same gender rooms when available **without** the need to relocate other patients.
2. If a same gender bed is not available, the patient will be assigned an all gender room.
3. Patients will **not** be moved if a same gender room becomes available unless the patient/family is insistent or if there is a clinical reason to justify the move. All requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
4. The Patient Placement Information Sheet (Appendix 1) will be shared with the patient and family at the point of admission.
5. This policy does not apply to children or obstetrical patients.

Supporting Reasoning:

All gender rooms help minimize the number of empty beds and unnecessary room transfers, increase revenue through efficiencies, and maximize the nurse at bedside time.

Patients will be admitted to inpatient beds in a more timely fashion from the Emergency and Surgical Departments. (Length of stay in ED will decrease)

All gender rooms reduce the potential transmission of infectious or hospital acquired illness.

In reference to the Senior Friendly Initiative, multiple room changes required to accommodate same gender rooming can increase the confusion in these patients and extend their hospital stay unnecessarily.

Reducing the room transfers will allow the nursing staff more time to be at the patient bedside with a consistent assignment throughout their shift.

All gender rooms eliminate the multiple communications to switchboard, lab, diagnostic imaging, dietary and patient’s family members on location of each patient.

Cross Reference

MAHC Patient Distribution and Gridlock policy

MAHC Gender Cohorting Information Sheet

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Notes

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References / Relevant Legislation

Senior Friendly Initiative
IPAC guidelines
Gender neutrality

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Patient Placement Information Sheet

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Appendix 1 – Patient Placement Information Sheet (page 1 of 2)
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Patient Placement – Information Sheet

One of the ways to keep patients safe is to limit the number of times a patient is moved within the hospital. To ensure that you receive the safe, quality care you need and that we use our space appropriately, Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare places patients in the first available bed based on the patient’s clinical needs before giving preference to gender. This means it is not possible to always admit you to your preferred type of room with others of the same gender.



Ensuring you receive the safe quality care you need is the top priority and there are a number of factors that impact patient placement decisions:

- a preferred room type is simply not available because of high occupancy and patient volumes
- a patient’s clinical need dictates the type of room required
- timely admission to an inpatient bed ensures you receive the appropriate care as quickly as possible
- reduce the risk of transmission of infectious diseases or illnesses
- support you in a better recovery and shorter length of stay in hospital
- nursing staff spend more time at the bedside providing care instead of making unnecessary room transfers

It is important to understand that to admit one patient into a same gender room from the Emergency Department can take up to five patient room moves, which has a big impact on your safety. It increases the risk of transmission of infectious or hospital-acquired illness and creates difficulties to track if an outbreak occurs.

Moving patients to an inpatient room as soon as possible is not only the best way to ensure you are getting the care you need, but also frees up space in our Emergency Department for the patients that need care as well. We thank you for your understanding and please do not hesitate to talk to your care provider if you have any questions. Frequently asked questions are answered on the other side of this page.

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Appendix 1 – Patient Placement Information Sheet (page 2 of 2)

Frequently Asked Questions

Will I be in a room with a patient of another gender?

Yes, patients may be placed in a same gender room if that is what is available at time of admission.

Will you move me to a room with another patient of the same gender later?

No, patients will not be moved from their assigned room based on gender even if another room becomes available.

What if I refuse to be moved to an all gender room?

Our policy, similar to many other Ontario hospitals, is to place you in the first available bed in the hospital to support more expedient safe, quality care. Our staff is sensitive to ensuring the privacy of all patients. Please talk to a member of the care team about any issues that make you feel uncomfortable.

Will I have to share a washroom?

Yes, semi-private and ward rooms have only one a washroom, and are equipped with a door for privacy.

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