

PATIENT FLOW PROCEDURE

CATEGORY: System-Level Clinical
ISSUE DATE: December 2010
SUBJECT: **BED MANAGEMENT - MIXED GENDER
PLACEMENT**

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PURPOSE

To provide clear guidelines for acceptable gender mix to ensure quality patient care.

PROCEDURE

Special Instructions

- Gender mixing may be necessary for very short periods of time in select inpatient areas.
- Most outpatient areas (Post Anesthetic Care Unit, PCI Room, Surgical Short Stay Unit) are setup to be a co-ed environment, as they are short stay areas that normally do not have patients stay overnight. If patients are required to stay overnight in these areas, a nurse will always be in sight.

Method

1. If gender mixing is required to urgently facilitate patient care, the Bed Allocation clerk will seek approval from the unit manager/manager on-call.
2. The charge nurse/unit manager will inform the patient of the temporary need to create a mixed gender room. Both patients must freely agree to this request.
3. If it is an approved area for gender mixing, the Bed Allocation clerk will admit the patient.
4. Once the urgent situation has been resolved, all efforts will be made to move the patients out of the gender mix situation. This move will take priority over other transfers or admissions on the unit.
5. If patients in approved areas should not share their room with patients of the opposite gender (due to religious, cultural, cognitive, clinical or behavioural concerns), nursing staff in consultation with the manager/manager on-call and Bed Allotment clerk will discuss the situation and determine alternate arrangements.