

# Requesting same gender health care professionals

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**This leaflet outlines the Trust's response to requests for treatment by a member of the patient's own gender.**

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The Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust employs over 4,800 staff of all genders.

We understand that some patients may prefer to see or be treated by a healthcare professional of a specific gender.

There is no statutory requirement for the NHS to provide a healthcare professional of a particular gender in any healthcare setting. Under the NHS Act 1990, we have a duty to provide a proper standard of care to all our patients. The Act does not state that care needs to be delivered by a particular person of a particular gender.

You may make a request to see or be treated by a specific gender of healthcare professional. Our ability to respond to your request will be considered on an individual basis. However, it will be dependent on circumstances such as levels of staffing and the needs of other patients. Our prime aim will always be to provide a high standard of care to you.

Please be aware that insisting on care or treatment from a healthcare professional of a specific gender may result in delays to your care. While the Trust endeavours to make alternative arrangements based on your request, it may not be possible to allocate a healthcare professional of the required gender.

***While we may consider requests for same gender clinicians, patients refusing, or requesting care or treatment from health care professionals on the grounds of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability or age is regarded by the Trust as totally unacceptable and without justification.***

***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.***

To find out more about our Trust visit [www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk](http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk)

**Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.**

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Reviewed by Radiology on behalf of the RBFT, September 2023

Next review due: September 2025

Compassionate

Aspirational

Resourceful

Excellent