

# Do We Need Men?

(on an ED ward)

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**From:** The Eating Disorders Special Interest Group [<mailto:EDSIG@JISCMail.AC.UK>] **On Behalf**  
**Of** Winston Anthony (RYG) C&W PARTNERSHIP TRUST  
**Sent:** 26 September 2016 19:19  
**To:** [EDSIG@JISCMail.AC.UK](mailto:EDSIG@JISCMail.AC.UK)  
**Subject:** Admitting male patients

Following a CQC visit, we have been told that we can **no longer admit male patients because we cannot segregate them completely from females**. Apparently, they **must have entirely self-contained accommodation and cannot even share a bedroom corridor**.

I would be interested to know whether other units have been told by the CQC to stop admitting males and how those who do still admit them have managed the situation.

My impression is that there is significant variation in the way the CQC inspection teams approach certain issues but I would be reassured to know that they are applying the EMSA standards with ruthless consistency and rigour.

Regards

Tony

“...we have been told that they require their **own sitting room** and bathroom”

“Trust nursing directorate has come up with for our EDU and its configuration is to have a **staff member sitting in the corridor AT ALL TIMES**, when a male pt is admitted”

“...current male inpt finds it **horrible** and considers himself even more of a **burden** on services”

“I find the **inconsistency** of CQC and QED highly frustrating”

# Opinions from a forensic perspective

BRITISH JOURNAL OF PSYCHIATRY (2005), 187, 579–582

## **Safety of women in mixed-sex and single-sex medium secure units: staff and patient perceptions**

GILLIAN MEZEY, YONETTE HASSELL and ANNIE BARTLETT

16 Medium Secure Units (11 mixed)

31 female patients (17 from mixed sex units)

58 members of staff involving consultants, ward managers, nurses, OTs, psychologists etc  
About 50% from mixed sex units, about 50% male

Qualitative Study using individual interviews

# Discussion

**27 out of 31** patients preferred a mixed sex ward

“Gender segregation was associated in many women’s minds with prison and was regarded as ‘abnormal’”

“Some women patients said that their sense of safety would be increased if there were more male patients and staff on the ward”

Patients had a violent/aggressive hx regardless of sex

# How about in ED wards?

- Sent out electronic surveys to all 31 ED Wards across the country from Nov 2016 – May 2017
- Asked to distribute to patients
- Thank you to everyone who took part!

# Response from Services

- 25 Responses from 23 Services
- 8 Services did not respond
- 17 of the 23 respondents Admit Men
- **4 units used to admit men but had to stop due to regulations**

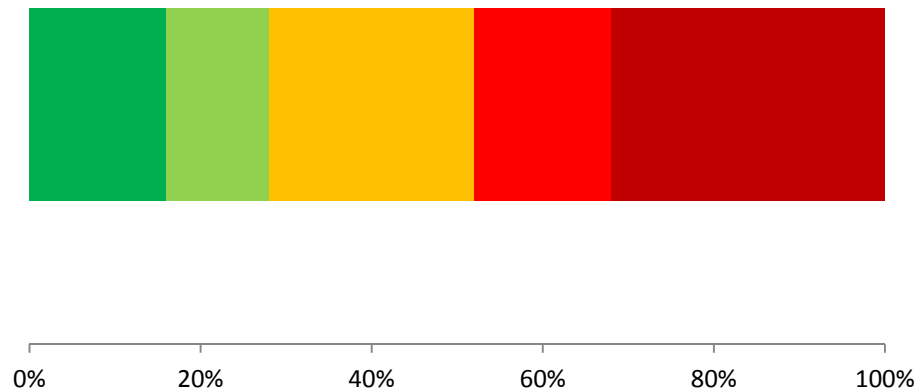
### 9. Please tick on how much you agree or disagree with these following statements:



1 —————> 5

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neutral	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
Inpatient ED units should be a mixed sex ward	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mixed sex wards discriminate against women	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

It has been difficult to ensure men can access a bed when required since single sex regulations were introduced





# Most Agree that Mixed is Best

84% agreed that ED wards should be mixed sex (4.3)

76% agreed that single sex wards will discriminate men (4.0)

Inpatient ED  
units should  
be a mixed  
sex ward



Single sex wards  
discriminate  
against men with  
ED



# Most Agree that Mixed is Best

84% disagreed if one male pt he has a bad experience (1.6)

84% disagreed mixed sex wards discriminate against women (1.8)

When there is only one male patient on a ward he has a bad experience of care



0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Mixed sex wards discriminate against women



# Comments from Service

All the men I have treated in the past on mixed IP units have found the experience supportive as have the women on those wards

To be able to treat the whole person a single sex ward is needed

Having the same expectations of wards as for general adult is not appropriate



An assessor from CQC visited and commented negatively on a male patient being admitted to a unit with a predominantly female population

Decision was taken by Trust management to stop admitting males following a CQC inspection

Our organisation chose not to sacrifice a bedroom to make a separate lounge



# Responses from Patients

Total of 27 responses

2 were incomplete

All 26 patients experienced inpatient with both M and F pts

9 Females had experienced admissions on an female only unit

Sex	n
M	6
F	21

Service	n
VSED	19
STEPs EDU	3
The Haldon	2
West Park EDU	1
Kimmeridge Ct	1
Unknown	1

# The Highest Scored

Most felt being in a mixed sex ward was helpful

Most were worried that men were disadvantaged

I worry that men feel disadvantaged from treatment because most of the patients are female



3.96

Being involved in treatment on a unit with both male and female patients helps with my recovery



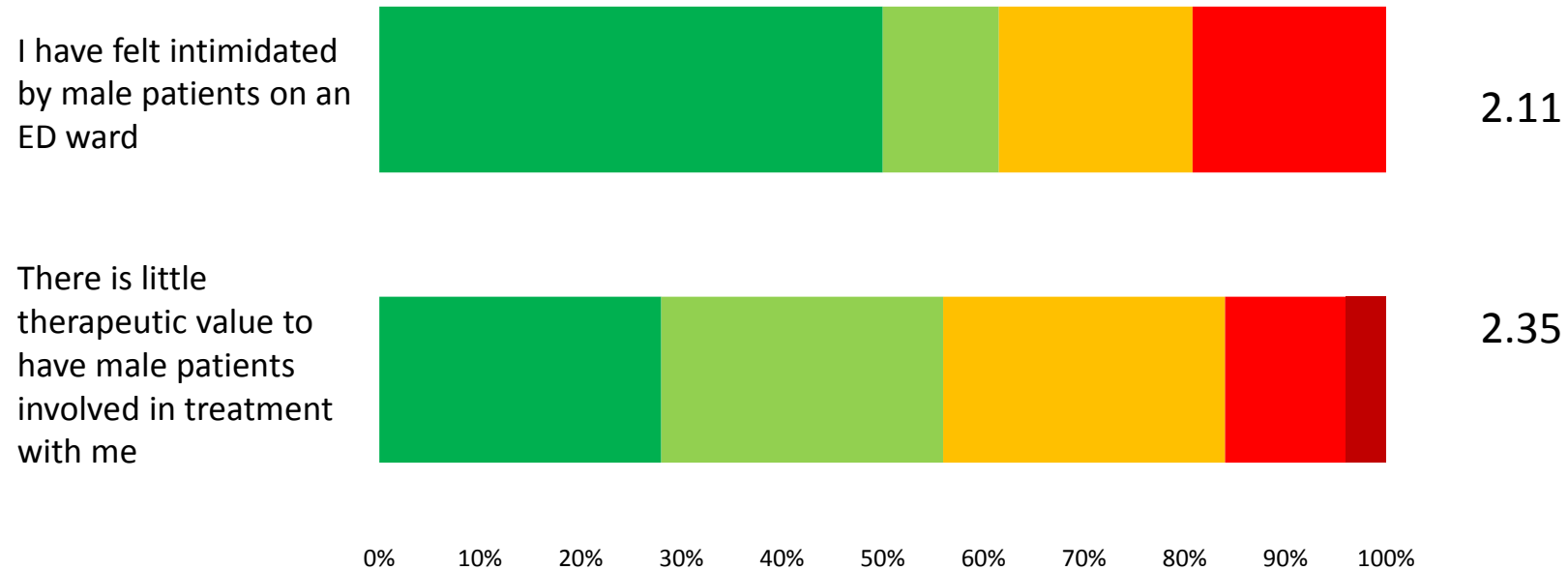
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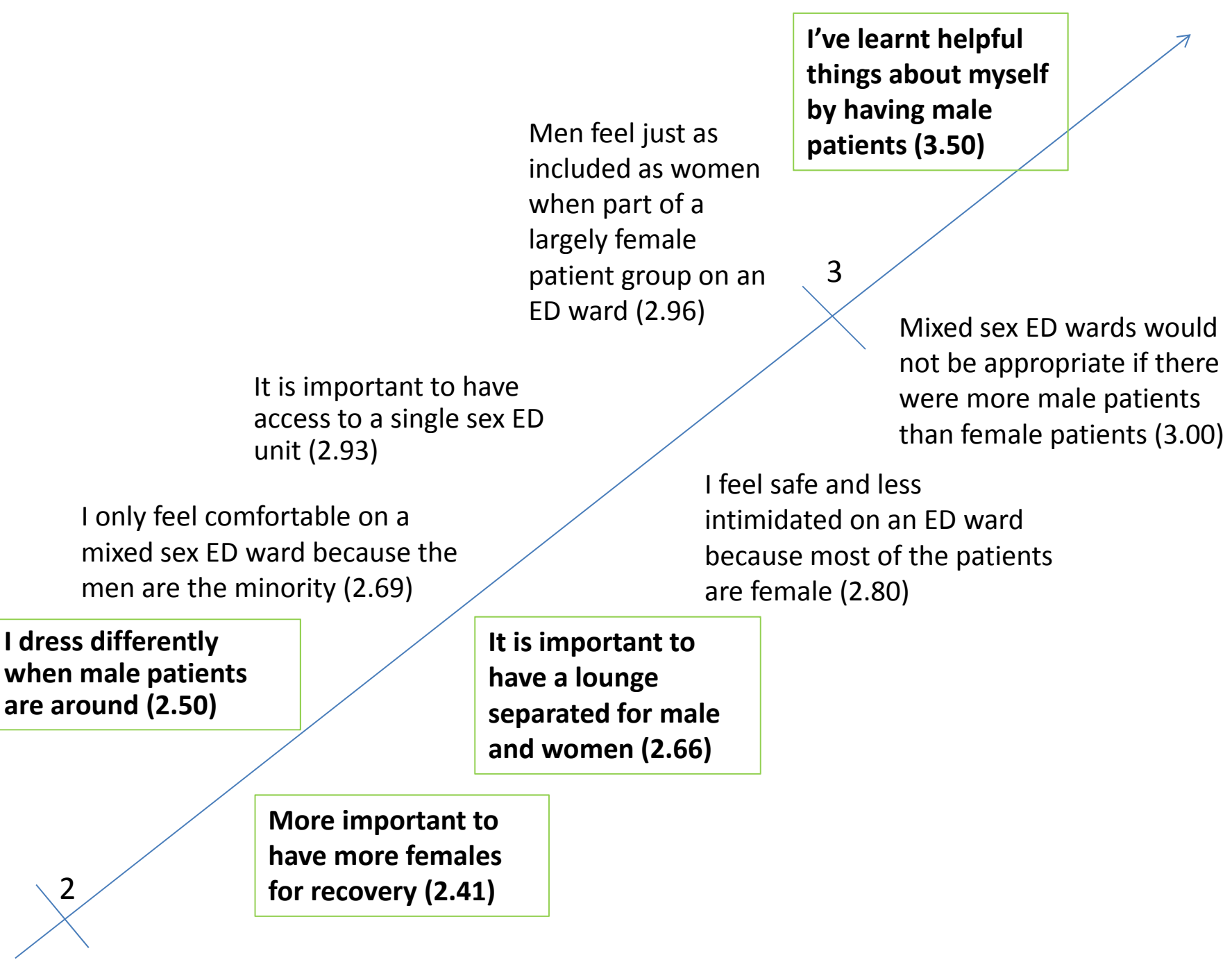
0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

# The Lowest Scored

Most felt being in a mixed sex ward was helpful

Most were worried that men were disadvantaged





2

**I dress differently when male patients are around (2.50)**

**More important to have more females for recovery (2.41)**

**It is important to have a lounge separated for male and women (2.66)**

I only feel comfortable on a mixed sex ED ward because the men are the minority (2.69)

It is important to have access to a single sex ED unit (2.93)

Men feel just as included as women when part of a largely female patient group on an ED ward (2.96)

I feel safe and less intimidated on an ED ward because most of the patients are female (2.80)

Mixed sex ED wards would not be appropriate if there were more male patients than female patients (3.00)

**I've learnt helpful things about myself by having male patients (3.50)**

3



# Male only q's (n=6)

- **I don't mind if I'm the only male = 4.3**
- **As a man I feel accepted on the ED ward = 4.0**
- I would prefer a better ratio of M:F = 2.8
- I have felt intimidated by F = 2.3
- I sometimes feel embarrassed for being a M on a mixed sex ward = 2
- **I would rather be treated on an all male ward even if it means it's a long way from home = 1.3**

# Comments n = 19

- 68% (13) said a mixed sex ward is beneficial to their recovery

Had I been forced to be on an all-male ward, I would have found it much harder.

A female only environment creates a competitive and "cattish" atmosphere

It's normal to have mixed, as life is mixed gender



# Comments n = 19

- 16% (3) said that they would prefer a single sex ward

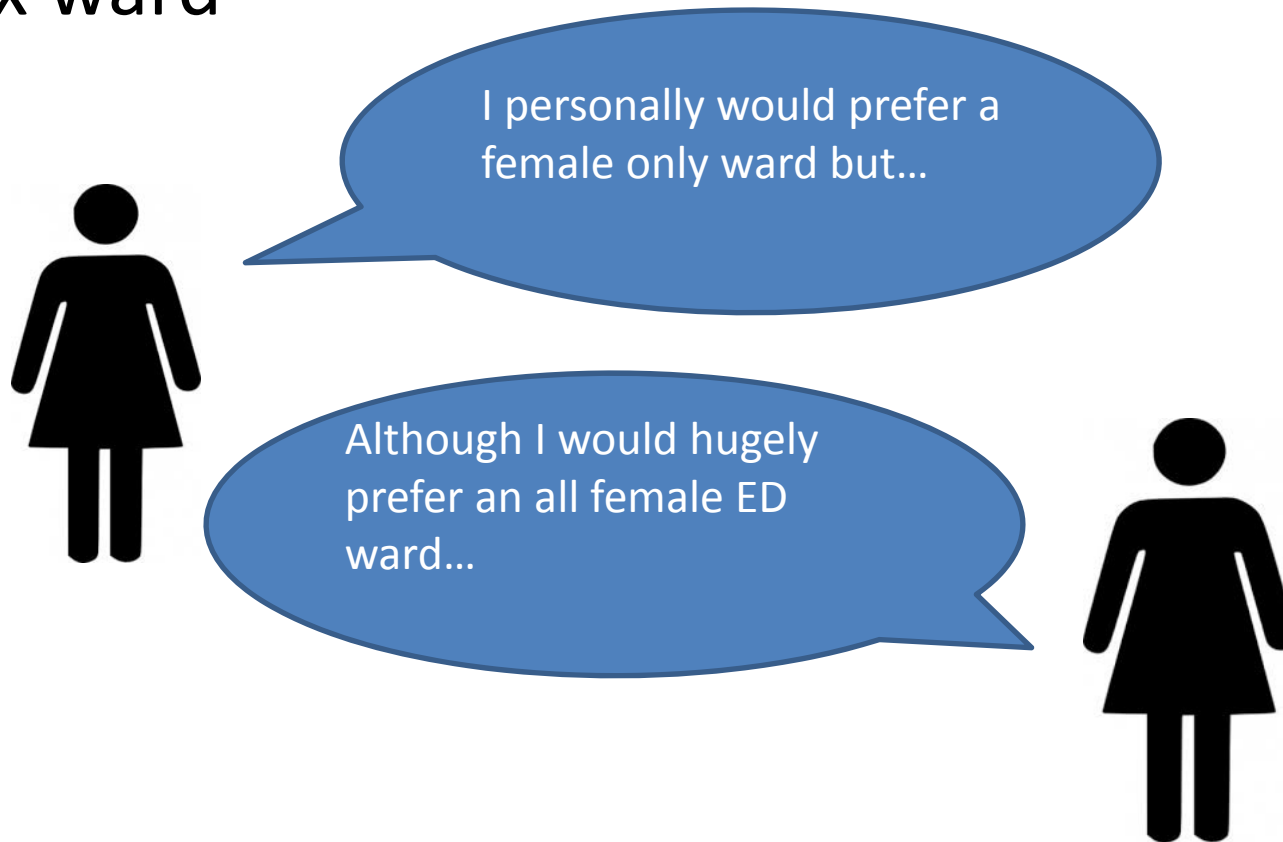


I have often felt that my recovery, or lack thereof, has been in part not helped by being the only male in treatment at inpatient units

NB/ Answered “somewhat disagree” to q – I would rather be treated on an all male ward even if far from home.

# Comments n = 19

- 16% (3) said that they would prefer a single sex ward



# Summary

- Neither staff nor patient raised significant concern
- Majority agree that single sex will discriminate against men and men do not want a single sex ward
- No strong feelings towards other regulations

# What Next?

- Dr Winston – guidance on mixed sex accommodation for ED units
- If you'd like to contribute to survey please contact me on [aki.fukutomi@nhs.net](mailto:aki.fukutomi@nhs.net)