

When a young woman OD's on drugs, whether prescription or illicit, the last thing you want to do is give the hospital staff the right to deny the boyfriend access so male hospital staff can help her into a gown, connect heart monitors to her bare chest if she's not wearing a bra, or to remove the bra if she's got one for an ECG, to attempt to get in the shower with her and to attempt to illicit sex in the hospital toilets when she's emotionally distraught and perhaps under the influence of drugs. At best it will cause conflict in her relationship, at worst, she may have been recently sexually abused and would find the invasion of her privacy by male staff to be traumatic. There federal government should issue guidelines to hospitals RE boyfriend access if that's what the patient wants, and access of male staff to young women, particularly in the absence of their boyfriend, and particularly in cases of self-harm.