

Delivering Same-Sex Accommodation

Declaration of Compliance

We are proud to announce that we are fully compliant in the DoH Standard on single sex accommodation – March 2011

Further information on our work to deliver same sex accommodation

Every patient has the right to receive high quality care that is safe, effective and respects their privacy and dignity. The Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust is committed to providing every patient with same sex accommodation, because it helps to safeguard their privacy and dignity when they are often at their most vulnerable.

Hinchingbrooke is proud to announce that we are fully compliant in the DoH Standard on single sex accommodation, meaning that patients who are admitted to our hospital will only share the room where they sleep with members of the same sex, and same sex toilets and bathrooms will be close to their bed area. Sharing with members of the opposite sex will only happen by exception based on clinical need for example where patients need specialist equipment such as in ITU or CCU or when requiring close clinical observation such as stroke monitoring, or when patients choose to share for example when undergoing dialysis or chemotherapy.

What does this mean for patients?

Other than in the circumstances set out above, patients admitted to Hinchingbrooke can expect to find the following

Same sex-accommodation means:

- The **room where your bed is** will only have patients of the same sex as you
- Your **toilet and bathroom** will be just for your gender, and will be close to your bed area

It is possible that there will be both men and women patients on the ward, but they will not share your sleeping area. You may have to cross a ward corridor to reach your bathroom, but you will not have to walk through opposite-sex areas.

You may share some communal space, such as day rooms or dining rooms, and it is very likely that you will see both men and women patients as you move around the hospital (eg on your way to X-ray or the operating theatre).

It is probable that visitors of the opposite gender will come into the room where your bed is, and this may include patients visiting each other.

It is almost certain that both male and female nurses, doctors and other staff will come into your bed area.

If you need help to use the toilet or take a bath (eg you need a hoist or special bath) then you may be taken to a “unisex” bathroom used by both men and women, but a member of staff will be with you, and other patients will not be in the bathroom at the same time.

The NHS will not turn patients away just because a “right-sex” bed is not immediately available

What are our plans for the future?

Whilst the Trust is compliant with government legislation there is still work to be done in embedding the systems and processes and cultural attitudes and behaviours associated with the Privacy & Dignity agenda.

How will we measure success?

The trust has developed a range of mechanisms to monitor and measure single sex compliance. A sample of patients from each ward each month will be given patient satisfaction surveys to complete. These ask a range of questions including specific single sex and privacy and dignity ones. The trust has also developed a P&D audit tool which will be used on a periodic basis to assess all clinical areas for their P&D compliance.

Any cases of mixing are monitored and reported by our site managers in accordance with our Mixed Sex Occurrence (MSO) escalation procedure. Incidents are reported to the Trust Board along with an associated root cause analysis for review and action.

What do I do if I think I am in mixed sex accommodation?

We want to know about your experiences. Please contact our Privacy & Dignity champion **Lorraine Szeremeta Associate Director of Nursing** if you have any comments or concerns.