

Delivering Same-Sex Accommodation Declaration of compliance

We are proud to confirm that mixed sex accommodation has been virtually eliminated in all our hospitals.

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 North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus (CTP) 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.

We are proud to confirm that mixed sex accommodation has been virtually eliminated in our trust. Patients who are admitted to any of our hospitals 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 (e.g ICU), or when patients choose to share.

What does this mean for patients?

Other than in the circumstances set out above, patients admitted to inpatient services commissioned and provided by North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus 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?

To ensure that service users have a positive experience as inpatients the CTP will continue to monitor the compliance of delivering same sex accommodation standards and if these standards are breached a full investigation will be undertaken and where appropriate financial penalties will be enforced.

All future estates programmes will embed the principles of delivering same sex accommodation.

Staff training and internal communications will continue to be undertaken to ensure that all staff are aware that they have a part to play in ensuring patients privacy, dignity and respect.

The CTP will continue ensure that service users are made aware that they have a right to be treated with dignity and respect in accordance with their human rights and the NHS Constitution. The CTP will actively seek views on their experience as inpatients.

How will we measure success?

To ensure that inpatient services continue to ensure that patients are treated with respect and dignity and the principles of delivering same sex accommodation are upheld, the CTP will monitor success via the CQC inpatient survey, local surveys, patient engagement and reports to Board.

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

We want to know about your experiences. Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison (PALS) services if you have any comments or concerns.

North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus PALS

01472 625222

Northern Lincolnshire & Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust PALS

01472 875403