

Northampton General Hospital   
NHS Trust  
**Delivering Same-Sex Accommodation  
Declaration of compliance**

We are proud to confirm that mixed sex accommodation has been virtually eliminated in Northampton General Hospital

**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. Northampton General Hospital 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 will only share their bed area 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 or care such as in ITU or CCU or when patients choose to share.

**What does this mean for patients?**

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

**Same sex-accommodation means:**

- Your bed area (bay) within the main ward 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 additional 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?**

We are in the process of planning some major redevelopments:

Our accident and emergency and assessment unit redevelopment will provide more space and increased numbers of observation and assessment beds, this will allow greater flexibility to improve segregation. These changes are planned for Spring/Summer 2011.

Our endoscopy unit redevelopment will also provide more space and allow for greater flexibility to improve segregation.

In any new developments we will be ensuring facilities are planned to promote same sex accommodation.

We have a Privacy & Dignity Forum which meets quarterly and is attended by Dignity Champions from every ward.

## **How will we measure success?**

We are currently using a variety of patient feedback mechanisms which include patient advice and liaison service (PALS) and the Dr Foster patient experience trackers (PET's) to gain patient feedback on respect & dignity, the results are fed back to every ward and department to ensure standards are maintained.

We have also been using questionnaires to ascertain feedback from patients relating purely to their experience regarding same sex accommodation.

All exceptions of same sex accommodation are escalated for approval by a director of the trust; these exceptions are then recorded by directorates and reported to the trust board.

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

We want to know about your experiences. Please contact the nurse in charge or ward/unit manager in the first instance or contact PALS on 01604 545784 if you have any comments, concerns or compliments.