

Declaration of Compliance

Elimination of Mixed Sex Accommodation

The Countess of Chester NHS Hospital Foundation Trust is pleased to confirm that we are compliant with the Government's requirement to eliminate mixed-sex accommodation, except when it is in the patient's overall best interest, or reflects their personal choice.

Every patient has the right to receive high quality care that is safe, effective and respects their privacy and dignity. The Countess of Chester NHS Hospital Foundation 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.

We have processes in place to ensure that patients who are admitted to 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 should only happen by exception based on clinical need for example in critical care where patients need specialist staff and equipment, or when patients choose to share for instance in our Renal Unit.

What does this mean for patients?

Other than in the circumstances such as critical care patients admitted to the Countess of Chester NHS Hospital Foundation Trust 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 maintain our compliance and further improve, demonstrating our commitment to the Delivery of Same Sex Accommodation in all new capital developments.

How will we measure success?

We will measure our success via our patient experience and ensure that this is regularly reported to our Board with any breaches, with remedial action taken if required.

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

We want to know about your experiences. Please contact the Countess of Chester NHS Hospital Foundation Trust as follows if you have any comments or concerns.

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