

REPORT TO TRUST BOARD – 28 March 2013

Title	Eliminating Mixed-Sex Accommodation Declaration
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Executive summary

All providers of NHS funded care are required to confirm whether they are compliant with the national definition *'to eliminate mixed sex accommodation except where it is in the overall best interests of the patient, or reflects their patient choice'*. Those organisations that breach will attract sanctions through the NHS contract.

Over the last year the Trust has worked with a high level delivery plan and associated operational action plans for ensuring compliance with Same Sex Accommodation (SSA) plans.

A self-assessment of compliance has also been undertaken across inpatient wards across our integrated services by lead nurses.

The Trust provides monthly reporting on any breaches of the national guidance and these are reported via the incident system and monitored through our Integrated Quality & Performance Report.

This is a renewal of the declaration that was made in March 2012 and it relates to all areas of the Trust that provide inpatients care.

Quality Assurance Committee have considered and approved the proposed declaration confirming compliance with the national definition *'to eliminate mixed sex accommodation except where it is in the overall best interests of the patient, or reflects their patient choice'*. The declaration has been amended following QAC review and is attached for approval.

Recommendation

The Trust Board is recommended to endorse the proposed declaration for publication on the LPT website

Related Trust objectives	We will continuously improve quality, with services shaped from user experience and research.
Risk and assurance	Non - compliance has contractual and financial consequences and impact on compliance with quality standards
Legal implications/ regulatory requirements	This report has a connection with Monitor, CQC and commissioner requirements
Presenting Director	Jackie Ardley–Chief Nurse
Author(s)	Bal Johal Head of Quality & Professional Practice

	Di Postle, Professional Standards Lead
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<p>*Disclaimer: This report is submitted to Quality Assurance Committee for amendment or approval as appropriate. It should not be regarded or published as Trust Policy until it is formally agreed at a Trust Board meeting.</p>
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Eliminating Mixed-Sex Accommodation

Declaration of Compliance - April 1st 2013

Leicestershire Partnership NHS 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. We have the necessary facilities, resources and culture 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 will only happen when clinically necessary except where it is in the overall best interest of the patient, 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 Leicestershire Partnership 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.

What does this mean for patients?

Patients admitted to Leicestershire Partnership 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, (e.g. on your way to other departments).

Your Privacy and Dignity will be maintained at all times.

It is probable that visitors of the opposite sex will come into the room where your bed is, and this could 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 (e.g. 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 will continue to:-

- Implement the plan for refurbishment of our estate.
- Monitor ourselves against the national and local standards for the delivery of same sex accommodation
- Report any breaches to these standards and undertake a full investigation into why this has happened.
- Publish any development plans on the trust Internet site.

How will we measure success?

We will continue to monitor our progress against information that is made available following CQC inpatient survey, local surveys, patient engagement, along with a self-assessment carried out for each ward every 6 months.

Progress will be monitored internally by the Trust Board and externally by our commissioners.