

Trust Board –26th July 2022

Same Sex Accommodation Annual report (including annual declaration of compliance)

Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Trust Board with a summary of the Trust position for the financial year 2021/2022, in regard to compliance with NHS England and Improvement (NHSE& I) requirements to eliminate Mixed Sex Accommodation (MSA) breaches within all inpatient areas; including compliance with national 'Delivering same-sex accommodation' guidance. The report sets out definitions for reporting a breach and in addition the impact of Covid-19 to national reporting and system requirements. The Trust has an annual requirement to declare and publish compliance with delivering same sex accommodation; this is included as an appendix to the report.

Background

Why is same sex accommodation important?

Every patient has the right to receive high quality care that is safe and effective and respects their privacy and dignity. Providers are expected to have a zero-tolerance approach to mixed-sex accommodation, except where it is in the overall best interest of all patients affected. A mixed-sex accommodation breach occurs at the point a patient is admitted to mixed-sex accommodation outside the guidance:

- Patients should not normally have to share sleeping accommodation with members of the opposite sex.
- Patients should not have to share toilet or bathroom facilities with members of the opposite sex.
- Patients should not have to walk through an area occupied by patients of the opposite sex to reach toilets or bathrooms; this excludes corridors.
- Women-only day rooms should be provided in mental health inpatient units.

Male and female corridors

Patients may on rare occasions be admitted into single, en suite bedrooms in areas occupied by the opposite sex when no bedroom is immediately available in the appropriate area. This will only be done following discussion with the patient and with safeguards in place, including 1:1 nursing care whilst a more appropriate bed is found. These incidents are reported internally as privacy and dignity breaches.

Reporting

There are times when the need to urgently admit and treat a patient can override the need for complete segregation of sexes with some clinical circumstances where mixing can be

justified. These are few, and mainly confined to patients who need highly specialised care, such as that delivered in critical care units. An unjustified breach is where mixing occurs that cannot be clinically justified. Local reporting should include:

- all toilet and bathroom breaches
- an additional requirement for mental health inpatient units in relation to the availability of same-sex day space for women who use services
- all cases of justified and unjustified breaches of sleeping accommodation in each 24-hour period, regardless of whether it is the same occurrence of mixing.

The Trust continued to review and report all incidents in line with national guidance throughout the pandemic and between April 2021 and March 2022. There was one reported justified breach in August 2021 in line with national guidance and definition:

The joint admission of couples or family groups may be a justifiable breach if it is in the overall best interest of the patient and the patients have expressed a preference for sharing and this consent is recorded.

A couple married for over sixty years requested to be able to share accommodation whilst both in-patients on East Ward Hinckley. Actions taken to support this request were:

- Patient request and decision documented clearly in clinical records, both patients had capacity to make this decision.
- Patient individual care plans updated to reflect wishes.
- Both patients were placed in a large room with en-suite facilities.
- There was no impact to other Ward patient's privacy and dignity or SSA.
- Escalated to the Executive team, compliance team and reported to the CCG and CQC.

Proposal

The guidance also includes information on same-sex accommodation in relation to individuals who identify as transgender. Individuals who are undergoing gender reassignment or who identify as transgendered are considered a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. The guidance sets clarification on how transgendered patients should be supported including gender variant children and young people. The Trust policy is under review and will be updated to reflect the national guidance with patient involvement.

The justified mixed sex accommodation breach in 2021/2022 supports the annual declaration as outlined in appendix 1.

Decision required

Trust Board is asked to:

- be assured that internal processes are in place to monitor and report MSA breaches
- gain insight into the MSA guidance for individuals who identify as transgender and gender variant children and intended work to review the policy
- approve the declaration of commitment to deliver single sex accommodation

Declaration of Compliance – June 2022

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust is committed to providing every patient with same sex accommodation as it helps to safeguard their privacy and dignity when they are often at their most vulnerable. The only exception to this is when it is in the patients overall best interests or reflects their personal choice.

Why is same sex accommodation important?

Every patient has the right to receive high quality care that is safe and effective and respects their privacy and dignity. We are committed to ensuring that patients' privacy and dignity is maintained at Leicestershire Partnership Trust. The Trust continues to report all incidents in line with NHS England and NHS Improvements 'Delivering same-sex accommodation' guidance. The guidance states patients must not;

- Share sleeping accommodation with members of the opposite sex
- Share toilet or bathroom facilities with members of the opposite sex
- Walk through an area occupied by patients of the opposite sex to reach toilets or bathrooms; this excludes corridors
- In addition women-only day rooms should be provided in mental health inpatient Units

Reporting

Compliance of same sex accommodation is monitored and reported internally to the Trust Quality Forum and externally by our commissioners. In 2021/2022 there was one clinically justified mixed sex accommodation breach in line with the guidance.

We will continue to monitor our progress against information that is made available following CQC inspections and staff and patient feedback.

We want to know about your experiences. Please contact our [Patient Advice and Liaison Service \(PALS\)](#) on pals@leicspart.nhs.uk or Telephone on 0116 295 0830

Governance table

For Board and Board Committees: Paper sponsored by:	Trust Board 26 th July 2022	
	Anne Scott, Executive Director of Nursing, AHPs and Quality	
Paper authored by:	Louise Evans, Interim Assistant Director of Nursing and Professional Practice	
Date submitted:	11.07.22	
State which Board Committee or other forum within the Trust's governance structure, if any, have previously considered the report/this issue and the date of the relevant meeting(s):	Quality Forum 9.6.22	
If considered elsewhere, state the level of assurance gained by the Board Committee or other forum i.e. assured/ partially assured / not assured:	Assured	
State whether this is a 'one off' report or, if not, when an update report will be provided for the purposes of corporate Agenda planning	Annual report and declaration	
STEP up to GREAT strategic alignment*:	High Standards	X
	Transformation	
	Environments	X
	Patient Involvement	X
	Well Governed	X
	Reaching Out	
	Equality, Leadership, Culture	X
	Access to Services	
	Trust wide Quality Improvement	
	Organisational Risk Register considerations:	List risk number and title of risk
Is the decision required consistent with LPT's risk appetite:	y	
False and misleading information (FOMI) considerations:	n	
Positive confirmation that the content does not risk the safety of patients or the public	y	
Equality considerations:	Transgender and gender variant children and young people	