

Quality Forum – 10 April 2025 (public paper)

Quality and Safety Forum – 20 May 2025

Same Sex Accommodation Annual report including annual declaration of compliance.

Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the Quality Forum and Trust Board with a summary of the Trust position for the financial year 2024/2025 regarding compliance with NHS England (NHSE) requirements to eliminate Mixed Sex Accommodation (MSA) breaches within all inpatient areas and compliance with national 'Delivering same-sex accommodation' guidance (NHS, 2019).

The report sets out definitions for reporting a breach in line with national reporting requirements.

The Trust has an annual requirement to declare and publish compliance with delivering same sex accommodation; this is included as appendix 1 to this report.

Analysis of the issue

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 a different sex.
- Patients should not have to share toilet or bathroom facilities with members of a different sex.
- Patients should not have to walk through an area occupied by patients of a different 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 occasions be admitted into single, en-suite bedrooms in zones occupied by a different sex when no bedroom is immediately available in the appropriate area. This will only be facilitated 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 incidents with detail included and reported as part of the monthly Mixed Sex Accommodation breach report to the Quality Forum.

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 confined to patients who need highly specialised care, such as that delivered in critical care units or joint admission of couples or family group. An unjustified breach is where mixing occurs that cannot be clinically justified.

In 2024/2025 there was:

- 0 X unjustified mixed sex accommodation breach
- 1 X justified mixed sex accommodation breaches reported in line with national guidance.

Justified Breach

A justified breach of mixed-sex accommodation occurs when the guidance is/cannot be followed, but it is clinically necessary or in the patient's best interest, and not merely for convenience or organisational reasons. The need to urgently admit and treat a patient can override the need for same sex accommodation.

In February 2025 there was 1 reported **justified** mixed sex accommodation breach within Family, Young Persons, Children, Learning Disability and Autism Directorate (FYPC/LDA).

All patients have single bedrooms, all families concerned contacted and no objection raised.

This was in line with the national guidance.

Proposal

Quality Forum, Quality and Safety Committee and Trust Board are asked to:

- be assured that internal processes are in place to monitor and report MSA breaches.
- approve the declaration of commitment to deliver single sex accommodation.

Decision required – Please indicate:

Briefing – no decision required	x
Discussion – no decision required	
Decision required – detail below	

Appendix 1

Declaration of Compliance – April 2025

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 'Delivering same-sex accommodation' guidance. The guidance states patients must not:

- Share sleeping accommodation with members of a different sex.
- Share toilet or bathroom facilities with members of a different sex.
- Walk through an area occupied by patients of a different 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 2024/2025 there were:

- 1 X justified mixed sex accommodation breach

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 lpt.pals@nhs.net or Telephone on 0116 295 0830.

Governance table

For Board and Board Committees:	Quality Forum 10.04.25 Quality and Safety Committee 20.05.25	
Paper sponsored by:	James Mullins, Interim Executive Director of Nursing, AHPs and Quality	
Paper authored by:	Jane Martin	
Date submitted:	Quality Forum 02.04.2025 Quality and Safety Committee 10.04.25	
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): If considered elsewhere, state the level of assurance gained by the Board Committee or other forum i.e., assured/ partially assured / not 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	
LPT strategic alignment:	T - Technology	
	H – Healthy Communities	
	R - Responsive	x
	I – Including Everyone	
	V – Valuing our People	
	E – Efficient & Effective	x
CRR/BAF considerations (<i>list risk number and title of risk</i>):		
Is the decision required consistent with LPT's risk appetite:	Yes	
False and misleading information (FOMI) considerations:	Nil	
Positive confirmation that the content does not risk the safety of patients or the public	It does not	
Equality considerations:	Transgender and gender variant children and young people	