

Delivering Same-Sex Accommodation Declaration of compliance

We are proud to confirm that mixed sex accommodation has been virtually eliminated in all our hospitals.

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. Central and North West London Foundation 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.

We are proud to confirm that mixed sex accommodation has been virtually eliminated in our trust. Patients who are admitted to any of 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 a toilet with members of the opposite sex will only happen by exception based on the service user choosing to be within a day space for men and women.

NHS Policy is that the NHS will not turn patients away just because a “right-sex” bed is not immediately available. Consistent with that policy, CNWL will only adapt the use of a male or female bed in an emergency situation.

What does this mean for patients?

Other than in the circumstances set out above, patients admitted to Central and North West London Foundation NHS 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. If you are a woman, you will have access to a women only day space.

If you choose to, you may share some communal space, such as day rooms or dining rooms, with both men and women and it is very likely that you will see both men and women patients as you move around the hospital facility.

Usually, visitors or patients of the opposite gender will not be allowed access into the room where your bed is, although this may happen if a patient is very physically unwell.

It is almost certain that both male and female nurses, doctors and other staff will come into your bed area.

Same sex-accommodation means:

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?

Our plans to improve DSSA cover all four domains:

Patient Experience

We will develop a leaflet to explain what delivering same sex accommodation means in CNWL.

Estates

We have declared full compliance via the estates ‘ward returns’ database request to NHS London in March. In addition, CNWL will strive to continually improve its inpatient facilities in particular and wherever possible seek to provide single rooms with en-suite

Culture

We are developing our staff induction to specify privacy and dignity and delivering same sex accommodation as part of this.

Systems/procedures

We will complete a Bed Census for one week, develop a Bed Management Protocol and a template to be used on the rare occasions where a user is admitted to a bed area of the opposite sex.

How will we measure success?

We will measure success via a variety of means including our User Experience Forum reviewing this issue, the CQC inpatient survey, local surveys and reports to the Board of Directors.

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

We want to know about your experiences. Please contact PALS on 0203 214 5773 if you have any comments or concerns