

Same-sex accommodation at The Christie

The Christie is committed to providing a high-quality service including diagnosis, treatment and care to all our patients. We believe in safe and effective care focussed on the individual needs of each person. Providing same-sex accommodation is an important way to improve the quality of care we provide to our patients.

If you need information in a different format, such as easy read, large print, BSL, braille, email, SMS text or other communication support, please tell your ward or clinic nurse.

We try to ensure that all our information given to patients is accurate, balanced and based on the most up-to-date scientific evidence. If you would like to have details about the sources used please contact **patient.information@christie.nhs.uk**

For information and advice visit the cancer information centres at Withington, Oldham or Salford. Opening times can vary, please check before making a special journey.



Contact The Christie Hotline for
urgent support and specialist advice
The Christie Hotline: 0161 446 3658
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



What do we mean by same-sex accommodation?

Same-sex accommodation consists of sleeping areas and toilet and washing facilities designated as men-only or women-only. This means that men and women should not be in beds next to each other.

Same-sex accommodation can be provided in a number of ways:

- single rooms for one patient
- wards where men and women are in separate bays or annexes within the ward

Toilet and washing facilities should be clearly labelled and easily accessible. These should be next to the ward annexe, bay or room. Patients should not need to go through sleeping areas or toilet and washing facilities used by the opposite sex to access their own.

However, disabled toilets and bathrooms have specialist facilities and equipment and are for use by either men or women, although not at the same time.

There are male and female members of staff who will be working on the wards and visitors will be coming to these areas as well, so there will be members of the opposite sex in the sleeping areas from time to time.

Privacy, dignity and same sex-accommodation

Being in same-sex accommodation can make a big difference to how comfortable and relaxed patients feel while they are in hospital. Having to share accommodation can have a negative effect on your privacy and dignity at a time when you may be feeling vulnerable. The NHS Constitution says that all patients have the right to privacy and to be treated with dignity and respect. Providing same-sex accommodation is an effective way of helping us to achieve this aim and to give you the best possible experience while you are at The Christie.

Some patients also have cultural or religious reasons for not wanting to share accommodation with members of the opposite sex.

Is mixed-sex accommodation ever acceptable?

Mixed-sex accommodation applies when men and women have to share sleeping areas or toilet and washing facilities.

There may be times when you need urgent or very specialised care when it may not be possible to prevent men and women being treated in the same area, such as the critical care unit.

Please speak to your nurse if you have any concerns or you would like further information.

If you are in mixed-sex accommodation we will

- keep you fully informed and explain the reasons for your situation
- move you into same sex accommodation as quickly as possible
- take steps to protect your privacy and dignity at all times.

The same-sex accommodation programme at The Christie

We have eliminated nearly all mixed-sex accommodation in our Trust except for some critical care beds. This is confirmed in our delivery plan available on The Christie website www.christie.nhs.uk