

Delivering Same Sex Accommodation

Declaration of Compliance

We are pleased to confirm that mixed sex accommodation has been virtually eliminated in our hospital.

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 is respectful of their privacy and dignity.

The Christie NHS Foundation Trust is committed to the provision of same sex accommodation. This safeguards privacy and dignity at a time when people are often at their most vulnerable.

We can confirm that mixed sex accommodation has been virtually eliminated in the hospital. Patients who are admitted to The Christie will share the room where they sleep with members of the same sex, and same sex sanitary facilities are close to their bed area. Sharing with members of the opposite sex will only happen by exception based on clinical need (for example where patients need specialist care and intervention such as in the critical care unit and surgical step down unit or when patients choose to share, (for instance in the young oncology unit).

What does this mean for patients?

Other than in the circumstances set out above, patients admitted to The Christie NHS Foundation 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 (eg on your way to X-ray or the operating theatre).

It is probable that visitors of the opposite gender will come into the room where your bed is, and this may 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?

There are plans to enhance the environment even further by refurbishing the toilets in the young oncology unit, to provide additional same sex facilities.

A number of refurbishment options are being considered to see whether the need for sharing with members of the opposite sex could be further reduced in the step down unit.

How will we measure success?

The trust has developed a detailed delivery plan which sets out how we intend to continue to manage the delivery of same sex accommodation and how this is monitored. We will use the results of our surveys, including the inpatient survey to measure our success with delivering same sex accommodation, and this information will be reported in conjunction with patient experience and feedback such as positive/negative comments and complaints. This information and progress will be reported within the patient experience report at various trust committees and 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 our PALS service on 0161 446 8217 if you have any comments or concerns.