

## **Delivering Same-Sex Accommodation**

### **Declaration of Compliance**

**2016/17**

Every patient has the right to receive high quality care that is safe, effective and respects their privacy and dignity. Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust is committed to providing every patient with same-sex accommodation, to safeguard their privacy and dignity when they are often at their most vulnerable.

Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust is pleased to confirm that we are compliant with the government's requirement to eliminate mixed sex accommodation, except when it is in the patient's overall best interest, or reflects their personal choice.

If our care should fall short of the required standard, we will take all actions necessary to address this issue. We will publish all audit results at the Quality and Risk Committee.

### **What does this mean for patients?**

Other than in the circumstances set out above, patients admitted to Lincolnshire Community Health Services 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 washing facilities** 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 a 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 have to share communal spaces, 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 (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?**

Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust has a monitoring process to ensure that all patients are treated in the same sex accommodation except for those circumstances detailed over the page. Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust is committed to ensuring that where necessary plans are in place to reduce the opportunities for mixing of sexes occur.

### **How will we measure success?**

Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust will report to its Board on the adherence to the principles of same sex accommodation and patient's views will be gathered through the inpatient survey process, through complaints and proactive involvement.

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

We want to know about your experiences. Please contact Susan Ombler, Deputy Director of Nursing on 01522 308961, or the Ward Manager for your location, if you have any comments or concerns.

#### **Skegness Hospital**

Jo Wilkinson, Ward Manager – 01754 762401

#### **County Hospital, Louth**

Carlton Ward - Viv Benson, Ward Manager – 01507 600100

Manby Ward – Di Smith, Ward Manager - 01507 600100

#### **Johnson Community Hospital, Spalding**

Jennie Gittins, Ward Manager - 01775 652000

#### **John Coupland Hospital, Gainsborough**

Donna Philips, Ward Sister – 01427 816542