

**Eliminating Mixed Sex Accommodation**  
**Declaration of non-compliance**  
**March 2011**

We are pleased to confirm that we have virtually eliminated mixed single sex accommodation in NHS Oxfordshire Community Hospitals; however we are currently unable to confirm full compliance with the Government's requirement to eliminate mixed-sex accommodation in relation to bathroom access.

We have the necessary facilities, resources and culture to ensure that patients who are admitted to our hospitals will only share the room where they sleep with members of the same sex. All bedroom facilities are fully enclosed with appropriate screening.

We have been able to identify immediate changes to the ward environments and allocation of patient accommodations to provide same-sex toilets and bathrooms close to bed areas in all but 2 wards across the 8 community hospitals. The 2 wards where it has not been possible are based at Witney (Wenrisc) and Townlands Community Hospitals.

We are working hard to correct this by working with the 2 wards to clearly identify male and female areas and designating toilets and bathrooms that do not require patient to pass by opposite sex patient's accommodation in order to access their designated facilities.

In addition replacement and clear signage will be actioned across all wards

We will be able to confirm compliance by June 2011.

If our care should fall short of the required standard, we will report it as an unjustified breach; this will be monitored through the quality and clinical governance processes.

**What does this mean for patients?**

Other than in the circumstances set out above, patients admitted to Oxfordshire PCT Community Hospitals can expect to find the following:

Same sex accommodation means:

- **The room where your bed is** will usually be a single room. If you are in a shared room, it 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.

Due to the rehabilitation function of our community hospitals we provide shower facilities for patients. If you need to take a bath we have, in most hospitals, specialist baths which due to their specialist nature are provided in 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.

You may share some communal space, such as day rooms or gyms, and it is very likely that you will see both men and women patients as you move around the hospital.

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.