

## Mixed Sex Accommodation Action Plan 2009

### Privacy, dignity and same-sex accommodation

The NHS is committed to making sure that all patients receive high-quality care that is safe, effective and focused on their needs. The NHS Constitution states that all patients have the right to privacy and to be treated with dignity and respect. We believe that providing same-sex accommodation is an effective way of helping to achieve this goal and of giving all patients the best possible experience while they are in hospital.

### Why is same-sex accommodation so important?

It is clear from what patients tell us that being in mixed-sex accommodation can compromise their privacy and dignity at a time when they may already be feeling vulnerable. The most common concerns include physical exposure, being in an embarrassing or threatening situation, noise, and the possibility of other patients overhearing conversations about their condition.

Women, and elderly women in particular, are most likely to worry about being in mixed-sex accommodation, although male patients also say that they feel reluctant to talk openly and find it embarrassing to be in a mixed-sex setting. Some patients are also strongly opposed to mixed-sex accommodation for cultural or religious reasons.

### What do we mean by mixed-sex and same-sex accommodation?

Mixed-sex accommodation is where men and women have to share sleeping areas or toilet and washing facilities. Same-sex accommodation is where specific sleeping areas and toilet and washing facilities are designated as either men-only or women-only.

Same-sex accommodation can be provided in:

- same-sex wards, where the whole ward is occupied by men or women only
- single rooms, or
- mixed wards, where men and women are in separate bays or rooms.

Toilet and washing facilities should be easily accessible and, ideally, either inside or next to the ward, 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.

### Is mixed-sex accommodation ever acceptable?

Most people accept that in some situations there is no alternative to men and women sharing accommodation. This includes situations where patients need urgent, highly specialised or high-tech care. When making this decision, staff must make sure that it is in the interests of all patients affected, and work to move patients into same-sex accommodation as quickly as possible.

### The same-sex accommodation programme

Most hospitals are already making good progress towards providing same-sex accommodation: 99 per cent say they are providing same-sex sleeping areas, and 97 per cent same-sex toilet and washing facilities. But there is still work to be done to ensure that all patients have the best possible experience during their time in hospital.

In January 2009, the Department of Health announced a package of measures designed to 'all but eliminate mixed-sex accommodation' by 2010. These include:

- Dedicated funding to support improvements and adjustments to hospital accommodation.
- Providing information and guidance to hospital staff, patients and the public.
- Sending an improvement team to hospitals that need extra support, and
- Introducing rigorous measures so that the Department can see how hospitals are progressing against the goal.

Health quality and outcomes will be supported through improvements in the patient experience, by delivering to national quality expectations and by delivering services which reflect the expectations of our commissioners. Care pathways and productivity will also be improved through the development and improved use of estate.

Please find below our action plan:

<b>Name of PCT/Trust</b>		<b>OXFORDSHIRE PCT</b>
<b>Date of Submission</b>		<b>09/09/2009</b>
<b>Total Allocation</b>		<b>£134,500</b>

Key deliverable	Actual cost to PCT	Milestones to be completed to achieve deliverable	Due date	Benefits or negative impacts	Risk and/or Issues identified	Severity of Risk/Issue	Revised actions due to risks identified
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The contractor has been appointed. Contractors have visited all sites and agreed start dates to fit in with clinical needs. Work started on some sites on 29 June 09. Some delays have been reported due to delays in deliveries of the ARJO baths which have added up to 4 weeks to delivery dates. Start date has been delayed at Bicester due to bed closure and H&S issues. The final cost has a shortfall in funding of £270k.

Key deliverable	Actual cost to PCT	Milestones to be completed to achieve deliverable	Due date	Benefits or negative impacts	Risk and/or Issues identified	Severity of Risk/Issue	Revised actions due to risks identified
<b>ABINGDON HOSP</b>							
<b>Ward 1</b>							
Convert wc to male shower room G39	<b>£20K</b>	Contractor has been appointed 8/6/09. Start on site 29/6/09.	<b>Completed</b>	Improved infection control	Additional funding required	Medium	Review Capital expenditure Plan
Convert store room to male bathroom G44	<b>£23.6K</b>	Contractor has been appointed 8/6/09. Start on site 29/6/09. <b>NB. New specialist ARJO bath is on 8 week order &amp; cannot be installed &amp; completed until August 22nd</b>	<b>Completed</b> (Re-used existing bath until new one arrives.)	Improved infection control	Additional funding required	Medium	Review Capital expenditure Plan

Convert small female bathroom to new female shower room G14	<b>£40.86K</b>	Contractor has been appointed 8/6/09. Start on site 29/6/09.	<b>Completed</b>	Improved infection control	Additional funding required	Medium	Review Capital expenditure Plan
Convert female shower room to large female bathroom G3	<b>£40.86K</b>	Contractor has been appointed 8/6/09. Start on site 29/6/09.	<b>11/09/2009</b>	Improved infection control	Additional funding required	Medium	Review Capital expenditure Plan
<b>ABINGDON HOSP</b>							
<b>Ward 2</b>							
Construct privacy screens across two ward bays	<b>£20K</b>	Contractor has been appointed 8/6/09. Start on site 29/6/09.	<b>Completed</b>	Improved privacy	Additional funding required	Medium	Review Capital expenditure Plan
Convert male shower room to male bathroom	<b>£34.58K</b>	Contractor has been appointed 8/6/09. Start on site 29/6/09. <b>NB. New specialist ARJO bath is on 8 week order &amp; cannot be installed &amp; completed until August 22nd</b>	<b>11/09/2009</b>	Improved infection control	Additional funding required	Medium	Review Capital expenditure Plan
Convert male wc to male shower room	<b>£20K</b>	Contractor has been appointed 8/6/09. Start on site 29/6/09.	<b>Completed</b>	Improved infection control	Additional funding required	Medium	Review Capital expenditure Plan
Convert female wc to female shower room	<b>£30K</b>	Contractor has been appointed 8/6/09. Start on site 29/6/09.	<b>Completed</b>	Improved infection control	Additional funding required	Medium	Review Capital expenditure Plan
<b>BICESTER HOSP</b>							

Convert male ward to new male bathroom, showerroom & wc. Convert male day room to 2 bed male ward	<b>£100.7K</b>	Contractor has been appointed 8/6/09. Hospital beds/ward closure may be required to enable all works to be completed. Staff are carrying out preparatory plans to minimise risk. NB Discussions are taking place around possible bed closure, as Nursing have strong views on H&S risk to patients for the duration of the works, due to the nature of the building contract.	Revised date of 08/10/2009 (2 week delay from discovery and removal of asbestos. 1 week delay due to additional drainage works)	Improved infection control and patient privacy	Additional funding required. The option of closing the Hospital for 1 month to enable all works to be completed was considered and dismissed.	Medium	Review Capital Expenditure Plan. Discussions with staff underway to minimise bed closure risk.
<b>DIDCOT HOSP</b>							
Construct privacy screens across three ward bays	<b>£68.4K</b>	Contractor has been appointed. Hospital beds/ward closure may be required to enable all works to be completed. Staff are carrying out preparatory plans to minimise risk. <b>Start on site on 07/9/09.</b>	Revised date of 25/10/2009 to enable bed closures	Improved patient privacy & infection control		Medium	Review Capital expenditure Plan
<b>CHIPPING NORTON HOSP</b>							
Original Proposal not affordable - over £100K - New Hospital in 18 months. Improve signage for current facilities.	<b>£1K</b>	New signs ordered. Awaiting delivery	<b>25/09/2009</b>				
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£400K</b>						