Delivering Same-Sex Accommodation
Declaration of Compliance

We are proud to confirm that mixed sex accommodation has been virtually eliminated in all our hospitals.

Every patient has the right to receive high quality care that is safe, effective and respects their privacy and dignity.

North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust is committed to providing every patient with same sex accommodation, because it helps to safeguard their privacy and dignity when they are often at their most vulnerable.

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Patients who are admitted to any of our hospitals will only share the room where they sleep with members of the same sex, and same sex toilets and bathrooms will be 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 equipment such as in our Intensive Care Units, or when patients choose to share for instance for dialysis in our renal units.)
What does this mean for patients?
Other than in the circumstances set out above, patients admitted to North Cumbria University Hospitals 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 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 (e.g. 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?
- Work complete for Cumberland Infirmary and the West Cumberland Hospitals.
- Redevelopment of the West Cumberland Hospital would approximately provide 75% single en-suite facilities, with the remaining balance to have single rooms without en-suite facilities or four bedded accommodation.
- Training and education at induction of all new staff and education programme for present staff.
- Provision of patient/carers/families and staff information leaflets.

How will we measure success?
- 2011 DSSA patient experience survey’s to continue on a monthly basis, reviewed and actioned as appropriate.
- 2011 monthly mixed sex accommodation (Unify 2) data submission to DoH by the Information Department.
- Head of Governance to monitor complaints/concerns on a weekly basis and action with the Head of Nursing where appropriate.
- Peer reviews.
- Board to ward visits.
What do I do if I think I am in mixed sex accommodation?
- You speak to the Sister/Charge Nurse for the Ward or Deputy Director of Nursing.

What do I do if I think I am in mixed sex accommodation?
We want to know about your experiences. Please contact us if you have any comments or concerns.

Mrs L Carruthers, Deputy Director of Nursing, West Cumberland Hospital
Mrs L Anderson, Acting Director of Nursing, Cumberland Infirmary