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<p>PAPER BOD 68/2011 (Agenda Item: 14)</p>
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**Report to the Meeting of the
Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
Board of Directors**

27 April 2011

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

For: Approval

Executive Summary

This report details the current level of compliance with regards to eliminating mixed sex accommodation across the 8 community hospitals transferred from Oxfordshire PCT to Oxford Health NHS FT on 1st April 2011.

- a) This statement of compliance was previously made by Oxfordshire PCT on 31/3/2011 and declared on their website and is recommended to the Oxford Health NHS FT Board for approval.

Report

We are pleased to confirm that we have virtually eliminated mixed single sex accommodation in Oxford Health NHS FT 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

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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 Ward) and Townlands Community Hospitals.

We are working 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 patients to pass by opposite sex patient's accommodation in order to access their designated facilities.

- Witney - Wenrisc ward – patient areas have been redefined to provide dedicated male and female areas and patient movement has commenced to ensure compliance, zoning has been put in place since 15/4/2011 and further work to improve access to bathrooms is planned.
- Townlands – Plans to convert a store room (formerly a bathroom) into a shower room and toilet adjacent to the designated female sleeping accommodation. This will be pursued with the current estate provider, Oxfordshire PCT.

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

We expect to be able to confirm full 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 Oxford Health NHS FT 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.

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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.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to declare our current non-compliance status on transfer of Community Hospital Services from NHS Oxfordshire, and note the target date for full compliance, this requires the support of NHS Oxfordshire as commissioner .

This compliance statement will be published on our website.

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- 1. A risk assessment has been undertaken around the legal issues that this paper presents and there are no issues that need to be referred to the Trust Solicitors.*
- 2. This paper provides assurance and evidence against the Care Quality Commission Outcome 10*