

TRUST BOARD MEETING – 29 March 2012

Title of the Paper:	Urgent Business: Statement in relation to the elimination of mixed sex accommodation
Agenda item:	73/12
Author:	Natalie Forrest, Director of Nursing
Trust Objective:	3. Improve the Patient Experience
<p>Purpose</p> <p>The Trust is required to review and update its declaration of commitment to ongoing compliance with the Government's requirement to eliminate mixed sex accommodation:</p> <p>West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust is pleased to confirm that we remain 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.</p> <p>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, and same-sex toilets and bathrooms will be close to their bed area.</p> <p>Sharing with members of the opposite sex will only happen when clinically necessary, for example where patients need specialist equipment such as in, e.g. Intensive Care Unit, or when patients actively choose to share, for instance children.</p> <p>If our care should fall short of the required standard, we will report it in our monthly performance reports.</p>	
Risk Implications for the Trust (<i>including any clinical and financial consequences</i>):	Mitigating Actions (<i>Controls</i>):
Risk of failing to meet a key target that supports the objective to improve the patient experience	Maintaining compliance through ensuring there are facilities and resources, underpinned by culture of promoting privacy and dignity.
<p>Level of Assurance that can be given to the Trust Board from the report</p> <p>Significant</p>	
<p>Links to Board Assurance Framework, CQC Outcomes, Statutory Requirements (ie BAF risk reference, CQC outcomes linked to report)</p> <p>CQC Outcomes</p>	
<p>Legal Implications: None</p>	
<p>Recommendation to the Trust Board:</p> <p>The Trust Board members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the declaration of commitment as set out above, and approve it. The declaration will be published on the Trust's website. 	