

# Single Sex Accommodation Your Stay with Us



**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Who to contact and how:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Diana, Princess of Wales  
Hospital**  
Scarho Road  
Grimsby  
DN33 2BA  
  
03033 306999  
[www.nlg.nhs.uk](http://www.nlg.nhs.uk)

**Scunthorpe General  
Hospital**  
Cliff Gardens  
Scunthorpe  
DN15 7BH  
  
03033 306999  
[www.nlg.nhs.uk](http://www.nlg.nhs.uk)

**Goole & District  
Hospital**  
Woodland Avenue  
Goole  
DN14 6RX  
  
03033 306999  
[www.nlg.nhs.uk](http://www.nlg.nhs.uk)



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**Kindness · Courage · Respect**

# Information for patients

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## Providing Single Sex Accommodation

As a patient you deserve privacy and you deserve to be treated with dignity. It is well known that patients prefer to be cared for in areas with other patients of the same sex. The Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust is committed to upholding the national standard that every patient is accommodated in single sex areas.

At all of our Hospitals the majority of our wards have bays occupied by either men or women – not together. However some of our patients need a very specialized level of care and are treated by specially trained staff and this may mean that men and women are cared for together in one area – this will be for the minimum amount of time as possible.

## What is single sex accommodation?

This means:

- A ward that is occupied only by men or only by women, and has its own toilet and washing facilities
- or**
- Single rooms with single-sex toilet and washing facilities (preferably en-suite)
- or**
- Multi-bed bays\* or rooms occupied by only men or only women, with their own same-sex toilet and washing facilities

You shouldn't have to pass through opposite-sex accommodation, toilets or washing facilities to get to your own facilities or to reach other hospital services.

\*A bay is a sleeping area that is enclosed on three sides with solid walls. The fourth side may be open or partially closed. Bays typically consist of four to six beds each. A hospital ward can be made up of a number of bays. This is the type of accommodation most patients will see in modern English hospitals.

## What does this mean for patients?

The room / area where your bed is will only have patients of the same sex as you.

It is possible that there will be both men and women patients in your 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 have to share some communal space, such as waiting rooms, day rooms or dining rooms. 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 to 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.

# Information for patients

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To protect your privacy and dignity if you require assistance with your own personal hygiene needs, visitors and relatives may be asked to leave that 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. A member of staff will be with you, and other patients will not be in the bathroom at the same time.

**The NHS does not turn patients away just because a “single sex” bed is not immediately available.** This means that sometimes we have to move patients around within or between wards so as to ensure we can offer all patients a bed in single sex sleeping area.

## What is mixed-sex accommodation?

Mixed-sex accommodation is where patients of the opposite sex have to share sleeping areas, toilet or washing facilities.

Sharing with members of the opposite sex will normally only happen when patients need specialist equipment or treatment such as Intensive Care. Even then we try to manage the consequences of this in a way which protects privacy & dignity.

## What if I am placed in mixed sex accommodation?

Our aim is to **always** provide separate sleeping areas for male and female patients (other than in specialist units). In exceptional circumstances, this may not be possible. If this happens, patients will be separated as soon as possible. Until that time, staff will take extra care to safeguard privacy, particularly when patients are sleeping or using the toileting / bathing facilities

You, your relatives / carers will be informed why the situation has occurred, what is being done to address it and who is dealing with it. You should be told when it is likely to be resolved.

If you find yourself in this situation, you may wish to make a complaint. Please speak to a member of staff and they will help you.

## What about units for children and young people?

The need to ensure high standards of privacy and dignity applies to all areas of the hospital, including areas caring for children and young people.

However, children are often more comfortable when sharing with people of their own age; for young people (i.e. teenagers) we would expect that single sex accommodation is the norm.

A relative / carer who is the opposite sex of a child or young person may choose to stay with their son or daughter and this will usually be accommodated but extra care will be made to safeguard the privacy of all other patients who are sleeping in the bay / area.

Toilet and washing facilities for children and young people do not need to be the same-sex, as long as they accommodate only one patient at a time and can be locked by the patient (with an external override for emergency use only).

# Information for patients

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## Why can't we just have single-sex wards?

Patients often benefit from being treated in the same area as other patients with a similar clinical condition, so that they can be treated by the appropriate specialist staff. This means that wards are often arranged by specialty rather than gender.

## Will the staff looking after me be of the same-sex as me?

You will be cared for and treated by the staff with the most appropriate skills and training, and not necessarily by someone of the same-sex. If you have concerns, please talk to the staff providing your care.

## How to Complain About Hospital Accommodation

If you are unhappy with your location on a ward, report your situation to a member of staff within the ward or ask to speak to the Matron who will do their best to resolve the situation. Alternatively, you may contact the local Patients Advice and Liaison Services (PALS) or tell a family member or carer.

## Reference Sources Used in this Leaflet

### NHS Choices

<http://www.nhs.uk/choiceinthenhs/rightsandpledges/samesexaccommodation>

## Any Comments, Compliments, Concerns or Complaints

If you have any other concerns please talk to your nurse, therapist or doctor. Our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) are available on 03033 306518 (Grimsby, Scunthorpe and Goole). You can also contact [nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net](mailto:nlg-tr.PALS@nhs.net)

As a Trust we value equality of access to our information and services, therefore alternative formats available on request at [nlg-tr.interpreters@nhs.net](mailto:nlg-tr.interpreters@nhs.net)

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