

## Radiology

# Ultrasound scan - Pelvis

### What is an ultrasound scan?

An ultrasound scan is a procedure that uses sound waves to produce images of certain parts of the body. It does not involve X-rays.

### Who performs the ultrasound scan?

An ultrasound scan is performed by a specially trained sonographer or a radiologist (imaging doctor). It requires the use of gel and is a safe procedure.

If you do not want to have this scan performed by a male staff member, please contact us in advance. We will try to accommodate your request for a female staff member, but please be aware this may result in a longer wait for an appointment.

### What happens in the pelvic ultrasound scan?

Pelvic ultrasound scans allow images of the uterus (womb) and the ovaries to be taken. These are used to try and identify the cause of your problem.

The scan takes place in a darkened room. We will ask you to lie on an examination couch.



## Patient Information

A small amount of gel will be put onto your skin over the area to be examined. A probe is moved over this area by the sonographer or radiologist. The images will appear on a monitor.

**We will ensure that your privacy and dignity are maintained at all times.**

### **Female patients only (over 16 years)**

An additional ultrasound scan is often offered to **female patients** over the age of 16. This is called a transvaginal, or an internal, ultrasound scan. This is so the female pelvic organs can be seen more clearly.

An internal ultrasound scan is usually a painless procedure. It feels similar to having an internal examination, but no speculum is used.

**An internal examination will only be performed if you consent to it. It is your choice.**

An internal ultrasound scan can be performed anytime during your menstrual cycle. If you are bleeding at the time of your appointment, this will not affect the scan. If you do not feel comfortable having this scan whilst bleeding, please contact the Department to reschedule your appointment.

### **What happens during the internal scan?**

**If you consent to an internal scan**, you will be given a hospital gown and asked to undress from the waist down. You will be given privacy to do this.

You will be asked to lie on the examination couch, and often, a cushion will be placed underneath you to raise your hips into a good scanning position.

The internal scan involves inserting a clean, covered, slim probe gently into the vagina. The probe is then gently moved to see the organs.

## Patient Information

**All examinations are optional. You can decline or ask to stop the examination at any time.**

### **Who can attend your appointment?**

A friend or relative is very welcome to come with you to hospital. Due to the intimate nature of the scan, we discourage them from coming with you into the scan room.

Please note, children are not allowed in the scan room. We are also unable to provide childcare whilst you have your scan. We advise you to make childcare arrangements for your appointment.

### **What do I have to do before I attend?**

Your bladder must be full to ensure the scan is successful. One hour before your appointment, **please drink 2 pints (1 litre) of fluid**, preferably water (not milk or fizzy drinks). Do not empty your bladder after this.

If you're worried about travelling with a full bladder, please arrive one hour before your appointment time. We can provide water for you to drink.

**It's important you follow these instructions. If your bladder is not full, your examination may have to be rescheduled.**

### **All patients**

If you take regular medication, please take it at the usual time.

**Diabetic patients - Please take your medication as prescribed.**

### **What happens when you arrive**

Please report to the reception desk when you arrive at the Radiology/X-Ray Department. From here, we will direct you to one of our waiting areas.

We want to make you feel welcome and make your visit as pleasant as possible. If you feel unhappy with any part of your care, please ask to speak to the Department Lead.

## Patient Information

### Results

The radiologist/sonographer will send a report to your GP or specialist consultant.

### More information

For more information, go to: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Ultrasound-scan/>

### Do you need an interpreter?

If you need an interpreter, we will provide one of our hospital-based interpreters.

You cannot use a friend or relative to interpret for you. We provide an interpreter as we want you to be supported by someone familiar with explaining this complex procedure. A friend or relative can still come with you to the hospital.

**Contact Radiology at least 48 hours before your procedure if you need an interpreter.** Please call us on 024 7696 6933 and we will arrange an interpreter for you.

### Contact details

If you have any questions about the procedure, please discuss this with the staff member performing the examination or contact the booking team on **024 7696 6933** or [radiology.appointments@uhcw.nhs.uk](mailto:radiology.appointments@uhcw.nhs.uk).

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 024 7696 6933 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

## Patient Information

### Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.



Have your say. Scan the QR code or visit:

[www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback](http://www.uhcw.nhs.uk/feedback)

#### Document History

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