

Patient information factsheet

Pelvic ultrasound scan

Your doctor has recommended that you have a pelvic ultrasound scan. This factsheet explains what is involved. Should you require any additional information, or need to change your appointment, contact us on 023 8120 6046 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

What is a pelvic ultrasound scan?

It is a test which uses high frequency soundwaves to create an image of the inside of your body, in this case your pelvic organs (including your uterus, ovaries, and cervix).

There are two parts to a pelvic ultrasound:

- an abdominal ultrasound scan of the pelvis (where a probe is moved over your abdomen)
- a transvaginal scan (where a small probe is inserted into your vagina)

The transvaginal scan usually gives a clearer view of the pelvic organs, so it's possible that you may not need to have an abdominal ultrasound as well.

Information about a transvaginal scan

- The test will be performed by a specialist called a sonographer. They will discuss the reasons for having the procedure with you at your appointment.
- If you agree to a transvaginal scan, you will be asked to empty your bladder. You will then be asked to undress from the waist down, and lie on the couch with a paper sheet covering you.
- The procedure is performed using an ultrasound probe which is inserted into the vagina and then moved to obtain a clear image of the pelvic organs.
- This is not a painful procedure, but very occasionally patients feel some minor discomfort. If you experience any discomfort, please tell your sonographer.
- The scan can be carried out at any stage of your menstrual cycle including during your period.
- After the scan you will be able to resume your normal activities.
- Please note: you will not be asked to have a transvaginal scan if you have never had an internal examination (such as a smear test) or if you have never had sexual intercourse.

We are a very busy department and the nature of our work means we can occasionally experience delays (though we always do our best to avoid this). We ask that you allow plenty of time for your appointment and arrive on time. If you arrive late, it may be necessary to rebook your scan for another day.

Bringing someone with you

This is a medical examination. For your comfort and safety, **only one adult may accompany you** during the scan. If there are special circumstances, these may be discussed with the sonographer at the beginning of the appointment. If you attend your appointment alone, you can request a chaperone to accompany you during the scan if you wish.

Please note that children are not allowed in the scan rooms.

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Parking

Our car parks can get very busy so we recommend you leave plenty of time to park. There is a charge for parking, so remember to bring change to pay at the machines on the way out. For more information visit: www.uhs.nhs.uk and search for 'parking'.

Contact us

Ultrasound department
Princess Anne Hospital
Coxford Road
Southampton
SO16 5YA

Telephone: **023 8120 6046** (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)

If you need a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audiotape, please telephone 023 8120 4688 for help.