

## Patient information factsheet

# Your pregnancy dating scan

**You have been sent an appointment for a pregnancy dating scan. This factsheet explains what is involved. Should you require any additional information, or need to change your appointment, please contact us on 023 8120 6046 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.**

### What is a dating scan?

All pregnant women are offered an ultrasound scan (known as a dating scan) at around 8 to 14 weeks of pregnancy, in order to see how far along in your pregnancy you are and check your baby's development. During the scan some gel will be applied to your abdomen (tummy), and an ultrasound probe will be passed backwards and forwards over your skin by a specialist called a sonographer.

### Important information

- You should attend your scan with a **moderately full bladder**. This will help us obtain good views of your baby.
- Make sure you bring your pregnancy notes with you.
- Please note that the use of recording equipment is not permitted in the scan rooms.
- All mobile phones must be turned off while in the department.

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, and an important antenatal screening test. 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 and should not be left unaccompanied in the waiting areas.**

### Photographs

If you wish to have a photograph of your baby at the scan, you may purchase a ticket once you have checked in at reception. The ticket is then handed to the sonographer when you enter the scan room. There is a charge for photographs, £5.50 each or £10.50 for three. You may pay by cash, debit or credit card. Please note the cash payment machine does not give change. You may buy as many tickets as you wish but the images you receive may all be the same. The sonographer will try their best to obtain a good image, but it is important to be aware that a number of factors, including the position of your baby and your maternal build, can affect how clear the photographs are.

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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](http://www.uhs.nhs.uk) and search for 'parking'.

## Useful links

[www.nhs.uk/Conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/Pages/dating-scan-ultrasound-10-11-12-13-weeks-pregnant.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/Pages/dating-scan-ultrasound-10-11-12-13-weeks-pregnant.aspx)

## 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.**