

Information for patients and carers

Abdominal and Gynaecology Ultrasound Scan

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of three overlapping, wavy bands of blue. The top band is a light blue, the middle is a medium blue, and the bottom is a dark blue.

What is an Ultrasound Scan?

An ultrasound examination is a study of the soft tissues or organs of your body. Sound waves, which cannot be heard by the human ear, are used to produce images. A special gel is applied to the skin and the ultrasound probe is then moved over your skin, this builds up a picture, which is displayed on a TV monitor. This examination is performed by a specially trained Advanced Practitioner Sonographer, or a Consultant Radiologist. They will also produce a report after the examination for the clinician. An assistant may also be in the examination room during your scan.

Important Information

Please inform the department before you attend if you need a hoist to transfer.

Preparation for your ultrasound scan

It is essential for this examination that you have nothing to eat for 4 hours prior to your appointment time.

It is also essential for this examination that you have a full bladder. Please drink at least 1-2 pints of fluid (water or fruit squash, NOT fizzy drinks or drinks containing milk eg. tea/coffee) ONE hour prior to your appointment time. Do not empty your bladder until you have had your scan.

You may eat and drink normally after your scan.

Please ring the ultrasound department prior to your appointment if you are a diabetic.

Can you bring a relative or friend with you?

Anyone can accompany you to the hospital but they will not be allowed into the room when you have your procedure. Please note that we do not have childcare facilities, so we ask that you **do not** bring

unaccompanied small children with you.



What happens when you arrive?

On arrival at the Ultrasound department, please book in at the reception desk where you will be asked to have a seat in the waiting area. You will then be shown through to the examination room, where the sonographer will check some details with you. The Sonographer/Radiologist will explain the examination and

answer any questions you may have.

What happens during the examination?

Warm gel will be applied to your abdomen. You will lie on your back for some of the scan; the sonographer may then ask you to turn onto your side. You may be asked to hold your breath at times during the scan.

There are two methods of gynaecology ultrasound:

- Transabdominal - the ultrasound probe is moved over the skin
- Transvaginal (internal scan) - a special ultrasound probe covered by

a sheath, is inserted into the vagina

The transvaginal scan will only be performed with your consent.

Are there any risks or side effects?

There are no known risks or side effects.

When will I receive the examination results?

The images will be reviewed after your visit. You will be advised when and how you will receive your results at this time. You will not receive any results on the day of the scan.

Contact details

Ultrasound appointments:

Chorley: **01257 247793**

Preston: **01772 522619**

Ultrasound enquires:

Chorley: **01257 245196**

Preston: **01772 522619**

Sharoe Green Unit: 01772 524616

All telephone numbers are available Monday to Friday 08.30 – 16.30

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

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www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**

Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.

This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

Department: Radiology/Ultrasound

Division: Diagnostics and Clinical Support

Production date: November 2023

Review date: November 2026

JR 1076 v1