

# Information for patients and carers

## Abdomen Ultrasound

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 looks at the soft tissues and organs in 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 the scan

- **Please do not eat anything for at least 4 hours prior to the appointment time**
- **You may still drink clear fluids only.**
- **You may take any of your usual medications as required**

**You may eat and drink normally after your scan.**

**Please inform the ultrasound department if you are diabetic prior to the appointment.**

## 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.

## 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

Should you require further advice or information the department can be contacted Monday to Friday:

8.30am to 4.30pm on the following telephone numbers:

Sharoe Green Unit: **01772 524616**

Preston: **01772 522619**

Chorley: **01257 247793**

## Sources of further information

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

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

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)

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[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](http://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.**

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**Division:** Diagnostics and Clinical Support

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