

## Pelvic ultrasound

X-Ray/Scans Department  
Tel: 01271 370217

### Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at [ndht.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.pals@nhs.net).

### What is an ultrasound scan?

Ultrasound uses sound to produce images of your body. A special gel is applied to the skin to make contact between the ultrasound probe and your skin. The probe is moved over the area of your body being examined. This produces an image on a screen.

### What does it involve?

You will be taken into a scan room and asked to uncover the area to be examined. The sonographer will apply warm gel to make contact with your skin. They will systematically examine the area requested by your doctor. This requires a very high level of concentration so we ask that only parents of young patients or essential carers accompany the patient into the scan room. The scan findings are analysed after the scan and a report is sent to the requesting doctor.

### For adult ladies only

Sometimes, if the images taken are not clear enough, the sonographer will ask you whether you would allow him/her to do an internal ultrasound examination to get better images. If you agree, the procedure will be fully explained to you at the time. A chaperone is available if required.

### What preparations are needed?

It is essential that you have a full bladder for this scan. **Please do not empty your bladder for two hours before your appointment and make sure you drink two pints of liquid one hour prior to your scan.**

This is very important for this scan. An empty bladder might mean that the scan gives misleading results or cannot be carried out at all. If you have a long distance to travel, you might consider arriving at the hospital early and visiting the canteen or tea bar.

For children we advise that they are encouraged to drink freely and, if toilet trained, not to empty their bladder for two hours before the appointment.

## Results

Once the ultrasound scan is done, the results will be analysed by the sonographer and sent back to the referring clinician – usually your GP or hospital doctor. The sonographer will not be able to tell you the results directly.

## What about my general health?

There are no medical conditions that prevent us from performing an ultrasound. However if you have a medical condition that makes the preparation for the scan difficult for you, then contact your GP for advice.

## Are there any risks?

Ultrasound is one of the safest ways we have of examining the body. It does not use X-rays or require injections of dye. Ultrasound has not been shown to have any harmful side effects in medical use.

## Further information

For further information, please contact the X-Ray/Scans Department on **01271 370217**, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

### PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email [ndht.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.pals@nhs.net). You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

## Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at [www.careopinion.org.uk](http://www.careopinion.org.uk).

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