

Division of Imaging

Information for Parents/Carers

Paediatric Ultrasound Scan

What is an Ultrasound Scan?

An ultrasound scan uses sound waves to take pictures of your child's body. The sound waves are of a much higher frequency than normal so you cannot hear them. A jelly is used to help conduct them inside the body.

Why does my child need an Ultrasound Scan?

Your child needs an ultrasound scan so that the doctors can get detailed pictures of the size and shape of part of their body and how well it is working.

What happens during the Ultrasound Scan?

Ultrasound scans are carried out in the Radiology Department, either by a radiologist (doctor specialised in imaging techniques) or a sonographer (someone who specialises in ultrasound imaging).

- Your child may be asked to change into a hospital gown.
- Certain items of clothing and jewellery may be asked to be removed
- The person completing the procedure will confirm some details including date of birth.

You will be able to stay with your child throughout the scan. Your child will need to lie on the bed with the lights turned down low so that the radiologist or sonographer can see the screen easily. They will put some jelly on your child's skin, over the area being scanned, and move a probe over the area.

Will my child feel any pain?

You cannot feel the ultrasound scans sound waves, so the procedure itself is painless.

However, it is important to get into the correct position. Holding this position / lying on a table may, for some, feel uncomfortable, but for the majority of patients this is not the case.

Are there any risks with this examination?

No. Ultrasound scans use only sound waves, rather than x-rays or magnetism, to form pictures. The radiologist or sonographer will warm up the jelly before putting on your child's skin, but it may tickle a little.

How do I prepare my child for the Ultrasound Scan?

If your child is anxious about the scan, please explain exactly what will happen. Sometimes it helps to have a practice at home using body lotion or hair gel instead of the jelly and using the top of a deodorant bottle or your hand instead of the probe.

Clothes and accessories:

There are some clothes that can affect the quality of the scan and your child may be asked to remove them and wear a hospital gown.

Help and support in the department

If you have any medical problem which you feel may affect your safety in the department, or if you feel you may need any assistance, please let us know when you arrive.

Do I need to give my permission (consent)?

The sonographer or radiologist will ask you if you are happy for the examination to go ahead. This is called verbal consent and may simply involve the sonographer checking that your child is booked for the correct ultrasound examination.

If you do not wish to have the examination or are undecided, please ask the sonographer or radiologist so that they can answer any questions you may have.

Remember, it is your decision. You can change your mind at any time and your wishes will be respected.

However, not having the examination may delay your diagnosis as the referring clinician may not have all the needed information.

How long will it take?

An ultrasound scan usually takes between 15 and 30 minutes, depending on the part of the body being scanned.

What happens after an Ultrasound Scan?

When enough pictures have been taken, we will wipe off the jelly so that your child can get off the bed and go home if no further tests or treatment is planned.

When will I get my results?

The images will be studied by a radiologist and the results will be sent to the person who referred your child for the examination.

The sonographer or radiologist will tell you how to get your results and how long it will take, as this may be slightly different for each patient.

Your child may already have an appointment with the clinician who did the referral. If not, please contact them to arrange a time to talk about the results and any treatment that is required.

If your child is staying in hospital, the results will be given to the doctors looking after your child on the ward.

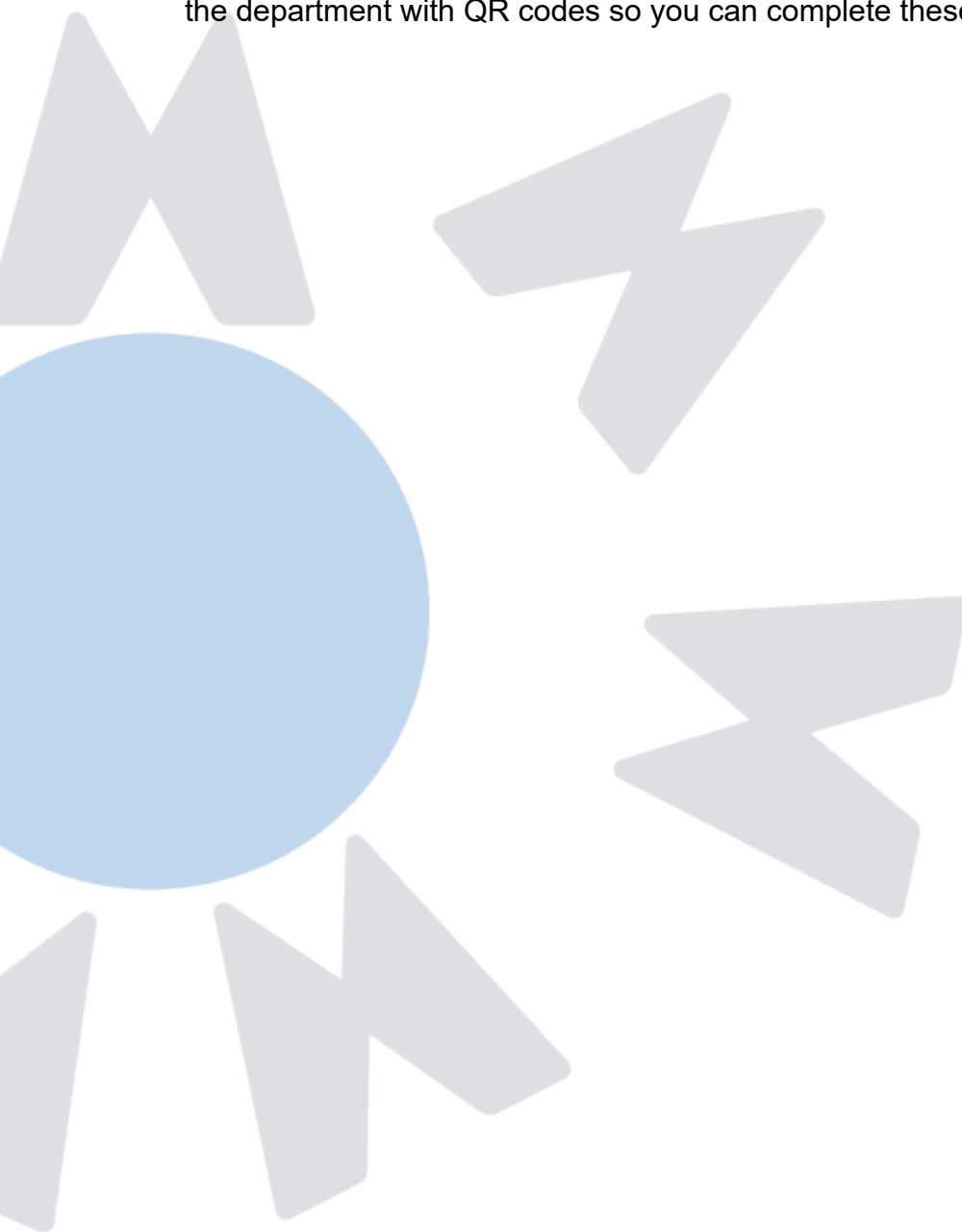
What should I do if I have a problem?

You should not have any problems that is a result of the Ultrasound scan.

If you feel your condition has changed, or you need further medical advice before receiving your results/after leaving the hospital, please make an appointment with the doctor that referred you, or in an emergency, go to your nearest Emergency Department (ED).

How can I provide feedback for the appointment I have attended today?

The Division of Imaging welcomes feedback from all our patients. We actively take part in the Friends and Family Test, and we complete a patient experience questionnaire every month to obtain feedback on the experiences you have had. Please speak to a member of staff regarding the feedback or there are posters within the department with QR codes so you can complete these online.



Contact us

For contact information please refer to your appointment letter or if you are an inpatient please direct your queries to one of the medical staff on the ward.

Language and accessible support services:

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch.

Your comments and concerns

If you would like to provide feedback you can:

- Ask to speak to the department lead / manager.
- Write to us: Patient Advice and Liaison Services, 1st Floor, Cobbett House, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9WL.
- Log onto the Patient Opinion website www.patientopinion.org.uk/ click on 'Tell your Story'

If you would like to discuss a concern or make a complaint:

Ask to speak to the department manager – they may be able to help straight away. Inpatients can speak to a senior nurse or manager by contacting the Tell Us Today service on (0161) 701 1999.

Contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (0161) 276 8686 email: pals@mft.nhs.uk. Ask for our information leaflet.

We welcome your feedback so we can continue to improve our services.

NHS 111

This service offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

Telephone: 111, 24 hours a day
Website: www.111.nhs.uk

Finally

Some of your questions should have been answered by this leaflet but remember that this is only a starting point for discussion about your treatment with the doctors looking after you. Further information can be obtained by contacting the radiology department that is performing the procedure.