



## **PATIENT INFORMATION OBSTETRIC ULTRASOUND**

### **YOUR APPOINTMENT TIME IS:**

**TIME:**

**DAY:**

**DATE:**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING  
YOUR REFERRAL AND ANY  
PREVIOUS FILMS.**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **What is obstetric ultrasound?**

Ultrasound examinations use sound waves to produce an image which can be interpreted by the Radiologist.

High frequency sound is passed into the body from an ultrasound probe and the sound is reflected off the internal organs. The ultrasound machine changes the returning echoes into visible images and displays them on a screen. From here, they can

be recorded on film. An obstetric ultrasound examination may provide valuable information about your pregnancy which helps ensure a successful outcome for you and your baby.

Two techniques can be used- an abdominal scan or a vaginal scan.

Transvaginal ultrasound is sometimes used in early pregnancy (less than 12 weeks).

#### **When is it used?**

An ultrasound examination can determine the approximate due date for your baby.

It can also check the number of babies and assesses you condition if there has been any unexpected bleeding. Ultrasound is used to assess the growth and well being of your baby. It can show anatomy and help to check for any possible abnormalities.

#### **What happens?**

Examinations are performed by a trained sonographer or doctor, with you lying on your back. A small amount of water soluble gel is used to achieve a good contact of the ultrasound probe. The probe is moved over the skin, sending and receiving ultrasound pulses which are converted into images.

Transvaginal ultrasound scans use a small probe which is inserted into the vagina, and is covered by a protective cover (usually a condom).

You will be asked to sign a consent form after the procedure is explained to you.

The probe is lubricated with ultrasound gel and inserted into the vagina by the examiner or you may prefer to insert it yourself as you would a tampon.

You may request a third person be present in the room.

#### **Do I need to do anything?**

You will be required to empty your bladder 2 hours before your appointment time. Drink 800mls of

water in the first hour, making sure you finish the water at least 1hour prior to your appointment.

**DO NOT EMPTY YOUR BLADDER BEFORE YOUR APPOINTMENT.**

You may eat normally.

#### **How long will it take?**

The examination is usually completed in 30 minutes.

**Ultrasounds are available at Illawarra Radiology Group at the following branches:**

#### **Wollongong**

**383 Crown St**

**Wollongong 2500**

**Phone: 422878883**

#### **Shellharbour**

**Suite 1, Professional Centre**

**Stockland Shellharbour 2529**

**Phone: 42967222**

#### **Corrimal**

**3/83 Railway Street**

**Corrimal 2518**

**Phone: 42852119**

#### **Warrawong**

**Shop 101, Cowper St**

**Warrawong 2502**

**Phone: 42746855**

Telephone or visit the most convenient branch to make an appointment.