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## Female Pelvic Ultrasound Imaging Department



## What is a Pelvic Ultrasound?

Pelvic ultrasound is an examination in which high frequency ultrasound waves are used to generate an image of the organs in the pelvis, notably the womb (uterus) and ovaries. The procedure is often used as a first line investigation for the examination of these organs. Reasons for a referral include pelvic pain, irregular or heavy bleeding and abdominal bloating. Ultrasound is of use in detecting such abnormalities as abnormal thickening of the womb lining, uterine fibroids, ovarian cysts and ovarian tumours. Ultrasound is also used extensively during pregnancy, both in the early stage and also for monitoring the progress of the developing baby (foetus).

## Preparing for a pelvic Ultrasound

There is no preparation required. However if you are not suitable for a trans-vaginal scan i.e. under 16 years old or sexually inactive then you will be asked to come with a full bladder.

## What does a Pelvic Ultrasound entail?

There are two types of pelvic ultrasound.

**Trans-vaginal.** In this type of examination a probe is placed in the vagina. This type of examination gives us improved visualisation of the uterus and ovaries in the pelvis. There is no preparation for this type of ultrasound.

**Trans-abdominal.** In this type the ultrasound probe is applied to the skin of the lower abdomen. A full bladder is needed which is used as a “window” to view the pelvic organs. Often the patient

needs to drink water beforehand, arriving for the examination with a full bladder.

## What happens after a Pelvic Ultrasound?

Your referring doctor will receive a full report of the examination.

## Does it hurt?

Some patients find holding a full bladder uncomfortable. The trans-vaginal examination should not cause pain or discomfort on introduction of the probe. It is similar to inserting a tampon.

## Are there any risks attached?

Diagnostic Pelvic Ultrasound does not carry any known risk to the patient or developing foetus.

## Any queries?

If you have any queries regarding the contents of this leaflet please contact the Imaging appointments office on 01932 723054.

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## Further Information

We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty.

If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Experience Team on 01932 723553 or email [asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net](mailto:asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net). If you remain concerned, the team can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

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