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This leaflet was produced by
Diagnostic Imaging Department
as a service to patients.

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The hospital is able to arrange for an interpreter to assist you in communicating effectively with staff through INTRAN. If you need an interpreter or a person to sign, please let us know.

If you require a large print version of this booklet, please contact PALS on 01493 453240

JB 66647



Your Ultrasound Scan



Patient Information

This leaflet is designed to answer some of the questions that you may have regarding your forthcoming ultrasound examination. If, after reading this, you still have any queries, please contact the department where staff will be happy to help you.

Please telephone
(01493) 452456

What is an Ultrasound examination?

Ultrasound is a very safe and painless method of examining parts of the body using high frequency sound waves, which produce a picture on a screen.

For some ultrasound examinations usually no preparation is necessary, but for others very specific instructions must be followed. Therefore please follow the instructions on your appointment sheet carefully.

If you are **diabetic**, arrangements may have to be made, so please let us know. If you are taking once daily prescription drugs these can usually be left until after the examination. If you

are in any doubt, we will be happy to advise.

How is it carried out?

When you check in at the X-Ray Department reception you will be directed to the ultrasound waiting area. You may be asked to change into a hospital gown. You will be invited into the examination room by an Imaging Department Assistant. The procedure will be carried out by a Consultant Radiologist (a doctor who specialises in x-ray and ultrasound diagnosis), or by an Ultrasonographer (a specially trained Radiographer who has a qualification in Ultrasound).

In the examination room you will be asked to lie on the couch and warm gel will be applied to your skin as this is needed to obtain an ultrasound image. The gel is water soluble, does not harm skin or clothing and is easily wiped off at the end of the exam.

The lights will be dimmed so the screen can be seen more easily. The person conducting the scan will then guide a hand-held probe over your skin and carefully assess the area concerned.

Ultrasound examinations are usually painless procedures but if the area being examined is already tender, you may feel some discomfort. Your scan can last between 10-20 minutes and

you may be asked to turn on your side or to hold your breath for a few seconds to allow better views.

The Consultant or Ultrasonographer has to concentrate very carefully while scanning and is unlikely to speak during the examination.

Friends and relatives should remain outside the examination room unless the patient is aged under 16 or has a severe physical or mental disability.

After the examination

If there is no delay you will not need to be in the department for more than 30 minutes. If there is any sort of delay, we will tell you why.

After the examination you can eat and drink normally and carry out all your usual activities.

It will not be possible to give you any results on the day of the scan, because the images have to be transferred to a computer and then studied carefully at the end of the scanning session. A written report will be sent directly to the doctor who requested the examination. We are unable to tell you anything about any further examinations or about treatment, since these would be decided by the doctor who requested the ultrasound examination.