



Your 1st Trimester Scan

Scanning Department Radiology

Great Western Hospital

If you need to cancel or you have queries or concerns please contact the department on

01793 60 48 22

Opening Hours

Monday - Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm



Your 1st Trimester Scan

What is an Ultrasound scan?

For this scan we use high frequency sound waves. Humans are unable to hear them, but the scanning machine uses them to produce scan images. It is a quick and painless procedure.

Attend for this scan with a full bladder

When the bladder is full, it acts as a “window” allowing us to see the baby more easily. This is why it is important to:-

- Try to drink 1–2 pints of fluid at least one hour before the scan without emptying your bladder.

What is the scan for?

- To measure the baby to see/estimate how many weeks you are.
- To check the baby’s heartbeat.
- To tell you if you are having more than one baby.
- To measure the fluid at the back of baby’s neck (Nuchal translucency). This is done between 12 -14 weeks if you **choose** to have the combined screening test for Down’s syndrome.
- If the scan reveals you are too late in your pregnancy for the 1st Trimester scan you will be offered a blood test (quadruple test).
- To check for any obvious problems with the early development of your baby

Is there anything I have to do before I come?

Please remember to bring your hand held notes.



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Are there any risks involved?

No. Ultrasound is a very safe procedure and does not harm you or the baby.

A scan can only be performed if requested by a doctor or midwife.

What will happen if a problem is found or suspected?

- This will be explained to you by the Sonographer. They may ask for a second opinion, however, the exact nature of the problem may not be clear at this stage
- You will be given a chance as soon as possible after the scan to talk to a doctor or a midwife to help you plan what to do next

What can affect the scan?

Sometimes the size of the mother or the position of the baby may affect the quality of the scan.

If so you may be offered another appointment at a later date.

Is it a Boy or a Girl?

It is not possible to determine the sex of your baby at this stage of your pregnancy.

Can I buy scan pictures?

Yes. Scan pictures can be purchased at the price of **£12.50**. The machine will accept cash, debit cards and contactless.

Who can I bring with me?

- Only one adult is allowed in the scan room.



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- It is not advisable to bring children to the scan appointment as sometimes problems can be found.
- The Sonographer performing the scan must concentrate fully on the picture on the screen. Unfortunately the presence of small children can often cause a distraction.
- After the examination is complete, children and other family members are welcome to look at your baby

You can get more information from:

- ‘Screening tests for you and your baby’ leaflet,
- Your midwife or hospital doctor or
- Antenatal Results and Choices, a registered charity, who give nondirective support and information to expectant parents making choices on screening in pregnancy.

Helpline: 0207 631 0285 or www.arc-uk.org

NHS Fetal Anomaly Screening website

www.fetalanomaly.screening.nhs.uk

This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email gwh.pals@nhs.net.

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