

General Patient Information – General Ultrasound scan

Your child has been referred for an ultrasound by your doctor. This leaflet explains what the examination involves and what to expect when you come to the hospital. It may not answer all your questions, so if you have any queries or concerns, please contact RBHSC US Department.

It is important that you read this leaflet carefully, even if your child has had this procedure before.

A site map has been included.

PLEASE allow time for parking as traffic builds up in the Royal hospitals site especially prior to clinics. This is imperative as those who arrive late may not be seen.

If an interpreter is needed please phone the X-ray department before the appointment.

What is an Ultrasound?

This is an examination using sound waves to take images of the inside of your child's body (the same sort of examination that is used to scan pregnant women). These images will help doctors diagnose and treat medical and surgical conditions. A sonographer will perform the scan.

What are the benefits of having an ultrasound exam?

Ultrasound captures images of the organs and tissue that don't show up well on x-rays. Your child is not exposed to ionising radiation, so ultrasound is safer than x-rays and CT.

What are the risks?

There are no known harmful risks with ultrasound. To reduce the risk of infection by non-sterile ultrasound gel products, remove all residual gel from your skin after the procedure, and wash area when able to do so.

Is there an alternative to this examination?

Your referrer has decided that your child requires an ultrasound scan. This examination will help your referrer to assess your child more fully and plan any further treatment that might be necessary. If you would like more information about

alternative imaging modalities, please speak to the doctor or health care professional managing your care.

How to prepare your child for the procedure

IMPORTANT INFORMATION Your child does **NOT** need to fast or have a full bladder.

Asking for your consent

The sonographer/radiologist will ask you if you are happy for the scan to go ahead. This is called verbal consent. If you do not wish your child to have the scan or are undecided, please tell the sonographer/radiologist.

Students/trainees may be present during the examination but only with your verbal consent.

Please remember that you can ask the sonographer/radiologist any questions you have at any time before, during or after your scan.

Will your child feel any pain?

Ultrasound is a safe and normally painless procedure but if your child is tender to touch, they may experience a little discomfort.

What happens during the ultrasound exam?

Your child will lie on a couch in the scanning room. The sonographer or radiologist will use gel and a small “camera” to take images of the relevant region of your child’s body. The camera will be moved over the area being imaged. Additional pictures may be taken with your child in a different position or holding their breath.

The scan will be performed by a sonographer or a radiologist. As well as the person performing the scan there may also be a trainee sonographer, trainee radiologist and/or consultant radiologist present who will be clinically responsible.

The examination normally takes 20 – 30 minutes. We aim to take your child on time but if emergencies come in there can be a delay. If so, we will keep you informed of the estimated delay time.

What happens after your child’s ultrasound exam?

Once the examination is complete the sonographer will not be able to tell you the results of the scan. The scan will be reported by a radiologist and the report will be sent to your referring doctor.

No special aftercare is required and your child can return to normal activities afterwards.

When will I get the ultrasound exam results?

Results are normally given by the clinician who has referred your child for this examination at a follow up clinic appointment or by letter.

Image sharing

Your images will be electronically stored on the hospital picture archiving system. This data can be accessed throughout the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and other doctors and health care professionals who are directly involved in your care. The ability to share images and radiological reports will improve the safety and quality of your care by ensuring that the right information is available in the right place at the right time.

In order to improve the medical services we provide we may also use your data as anonymously as possible for internal audit and medical education. If you would prefer that your data is not used for these purposes, please inform a member of staff when you attend for your examination.

If your data is to be used for research, then a separate consent process will be used. You will be asked for your consent, should this be the case.

Contact us

If you have any queries, we will be happy to answer any questions on the day of your ultrasound scan or you can contact us on the number given on your appointment letter:

RBHSC US Department: 028 961 50289

Feedback

We hope you found the information in this leaflet helpful. If it did not tell you what you needed to know or you would like to provide any feedback on your experience please let us know so that we can make any necessary improvements.

You can provide feedback on your experience:

Telephone: **028 9504 8000** (Monday-Friday: 9am-4pm)

Textphone: **18001 028 950 48000**

By email: compliments@belfasttrust.hscni.net

By email: complaints@belfasttrust.hscni.net

By completing an online form:

<http://www.belfasttrust.hscni.net/contact/FeedbackForm.htm>

Care Opinion



We invite you to share your experience by clicking the following link:
<https://www.careopinion.org.uk/>

or by scanning the following QR code on your smartphone or tablet.



Language and accessible support services -

Deaf/Hard of Hearing

If a Sign Language interpreter is required, please either telephone **028 9615 8900** via the Sign Video remote interpreting service (<https://signvideo.co.uk/deaf-community/>) or email us at MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net and we will arrange one for your appointment. Please have your H&C number ready when calling or include it in your email. This can be found at the top right corner of any Health and Social Care letters you may have received.

If you are unable to hear on the phone and need to contact us with regards to your appointment you can email us at MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net.

Do you need this information in another format or language?

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, including Braille, large print, CD, audio tape please contact the telephone number **028 9615 8900** or e-mail address MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net, and we will do our best to meet your needs.

Polish - Czy potrzebujesz tych informacji w innym formacie lub języku?

Fundusz ma dostęp do usług w zakresie tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych. Jeśli potrzebujesz tych informacji w innym języku lub formacie, w tym w piśmie Braille'a, dużym druku, na płycie CD, kasecie magnetofonowej, skontaktuj się z nami pod numerem telefonu lub adresem e-mail **028 9615 8900 / MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net**, a my dołożymy wszelkich starań, aby spełnić Twoje potrzeby.

Arabic - هل تحتاج هذه المعلومات بصيغة أو بلغة أخرى؟

تستطيع الجمعية توفير خدمات الترجمة الفورية والتحريرية. إذا احتجت هذه المعلومات بلغة أو بصيغة أخرى، بما فيها صيغة برايل Braille أو صيغة بالأحرف الكبيرة، أو في سي دي CD أو في شريط مسموع، يُرجى الاتصال برقم التليفون أو عبر البريد الإلكتروني [MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / 028 9615 8900](mailto:MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net)، وسوف نبذل قصارى جهدنا في تلبية احتياجاتك.

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Lithuanian - Ar jums reikia šios informacijos kitu formatu ar kalba?

Tarnyba gali suteikti vertimo žodžiu ir raštu paslaugas. Jei reikia šios informacijos kita kalba ar formatu, įskaitant Brailio raštą, didelį šriftą, kompaktinį diską, garso įrašą, skambinkite telefonu arba susisiekite el. paštu

MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / 028 9615 8900 ir mes padarysime viską, kad patenkintume jūsų poreikius.

Romanian - Aveți nevoie de aceste informații într-un alt format sau altă limbă?

Trustul are acces la servicii de interpretariat și traducere. Dacă aveți nevoie de aceste informații într-o altă limbă sau într-un alt format, inclusiv Braille, tipărire cu caractere de mari dimensiuni, CD, înregistrare audio, atunci vă rugăm să ne contactați la numărul de telefon sau la adresa de e-mail

MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / 028 9615 8900, iar noi vom face tot posibilul pentru satisfacerea necesităților dumneavoastră.

Tetum - Ita preziza atu informasaun ida ne'e iha formatu ka lian seluk ka lae?

Fidusiáriu ida ne'e iha asesu ba servisu durubasa no tradusaun. Se Ita preziza informasaun ida ne'e iha lian ka formatu seluk, inklui letra Braille, letra boot, CD, kasete audio, entaun favór telefone númeru ka enderesu e-mail

MPHAdminFOH@belfasttrust.hscni.net / 028 9615 8900, no ami sei halo esforsu tomak atu kumpre Ita-nia nesesidade sira.