

## 24-40 weeks: Fetal growth / wellbeing scans

These scans may be requested by your Midwife or Obstetrician (Specialist doctor) to monitor the wellbeing of your baby if required.

These scans take much less time than the anomaly scan, as their purpose is to take a set of measurements from which the weight of the baby on that day can be estimated using a computer programme. The Estimated Foetal Weight is plotted on your personalised growth chart and the Sonographer will use another chart to decide if any further action is needed. Obtaining the measurements is much quicker than at the anomaly scan and analysis of the data can take longer than the time spent scanning your baby.

- **As your baby gets bigger, it is not usually possible to obtain keepsake images or video clips, therefore these are not routinely offered at fetal growth scan appointments.**
- Fetal growth scans are performed at Royal Cornwall Hospital and at Community Hospitals throughout the county. They may be performed by either Radiographer or Midwife Sonographers.

### Any questions?

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact your Community Midwife.



If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the General Office on 01872 252690

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Printed 08/2020 V1 Review due 08/2023

## Pregnancy scans during the COVID-19 pandemic

Please retain this information leaflet for future reference throughout your pregnancy



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## Who is this leaflet for?

This information is for pregnant women who are due to attend an obstetric scan. It explains about important changes to arrangements for patients to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection.

## What scans will I have?

We will offer you two routine scans during your pregnancy. There may be occasions where further scans may be recommended – your community midwife will discuss this with you.

All scans are performed by a specialist in Ultrasound (Sonographer) who will also be either a Radiographer or Midwife.

## Can I bring someone with me?

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, for everyone's safety we request that you comply with social distancing regulations, which remain at 2 metres in hospital. At this time we are unable to welcome partners into the scanning clinics, to keep the number of people each Sonographer sees to a minimum.

We appreciate how disappointing this may feel for you, however our main priority during this time is to prevent the spread of the virus.

## What extra precautions are being taken?

The Sonography Team are working to keep you and your unborn baby as safe as possible.

You can expect us to be wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during your appointment and all equipment is thoroughly cleaned between examinations. You will be requested to wear a face mask, which we can provide for you. Please let the clinic receptionist know if you are exempt from wearing a face mask when you arrive for your appointment.

## 11-14 weeks – Nuchal translucency / pregnancy dating scan

During this scan, the wellbeing of your baby will be assessed and you will be given the option of a screening test to establish your baby's chance of having a chromosomal condition.

- The test is performed by measuring the fluid present at the back of baby's neck (NT) and a blood sample will be taken from you.
- The 11-14 week scans are all performed in the Hub of the Royal Cornwall Hospital by Midwife Sonographers.
- **You will be encouraged to video call your partner during the scan if you wish.**
- **At the end of the examination, keepsake images will be offered. You will be offered a short video clip to record on a personal digital device if you have not already made a video call during the scan.**

## 20 weeks – Anomaly scan

This scan is a detailed examination to assess whether your baby is growing and developing normally. It is a thorough examination of the baby's brain, face, heart, spine, abdominal organs, arms and legs. The placenta will also be checked for its position. At least six measurements will be taken during the scan to ensure your baby is growing normally.

This examination requires intense concentration on the part of the Sonographer as some of the parts of the baby being examined are complex and also still very small. As a result, you may find that the Sonographer cannot talk to you continuously throughout this scan. This is so they can concentrate on the well-being of your baby, but does not mean that they are not fully engaged with you, or that they have found anything wrong.

- The 20 week anomaly scans are performed at the Royal Cornwall Hospital and at Community Hospitals throughout the county by Radiography Sonographers who are specialists in all aspects of Ultrasound.
- **At the end of the examination, keepsake images will be offered and a short video clip will be taken for you to record on a personal digital device eg mobile phone.**
- **Unfortunately video calls cannot be accommodated during this examination to allow the Sonographer to concentrate fully on assessing the wellbeing of your baby throughout the appointment.**