

Hours of Operation:

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday:

Sunday:

Information for patients having an **Ultrasound Scan**

Contact Numbers:

Patient's Name: _____

Appointment Date: _____

Appointment Time: _____

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Please arrive early to give yourself time to check in. Please bring with you photo identification and your BC Care Card (personal health number).

Do not bring children under the age of 12 with you unless you bring someone to care for them while you are having the test.

Our staff will speak with you in English. If you are not fluent in English, please bring an adult interpreter with you who is able to stay for the entire test.

If you are not able to keep your appointment, please call the department right away. By giving us at least 24 hours notice we are able to use your time slot for another patient. We will try to give you another date and time for your test when you call.

Please do not wear perfume, cologne, or aftershave to your appointment. Some people are allergic to fragrance ingredients and can suffer severe reactions.

What is Ultrasound Imaging?

Ultrasound imaging, also called ultrasound scanning or sonography, utilizes high-frequency sound waves to produce images of the internal organs. Because ultrasound images are captured in real-time, they can show the structure and movement of the body's internal organs and blood flowing through the heart and blood vessels.

How Should I Prepare for the Procedure?

Depending on the area to be examined, you may be notified of a specific preparation that you will have to follow before having your scan. This may involve fasting or filling your bladder. Before the scan, you may be asked to change into a patient gown.

How is the Scan Performed?

For most ultrasound exams, you will be asked to lie on a patient stretcher. A clear gel will be applied to the skin over the area to be examined and a sonographer or radiologist will move a transducer (a small Ultrasound camera) over that area. When the examination is complete you may be asked to wait in the department while the images are reviewed.

In some ultrasound studies, the transducer must be inserted into the esophagus (transesophageal echocardiogram), vagina (endovaginal scan) or rectum (prostate scan) to obtain the necessary images.

Most ultrasound examinations are completed within 30-45 minutes.

How Will I Get My Results?

A radiologist will read the images and send a report to your doctor, who will share the results with you.

What Are the Limitations to Ultrasound Imaging?

Ultrasound waves are reflected by air and gas so ultrasound is not an ideal technique for imaging the stomach or bowel. Intestinal gas may also prevent visualization of certain other structures such as the pancreas. Ultrasound cannot penetrate bone and is therefore not usually used to image bony structures.

The images obtained on large patients may not be the same quality as those obtained in slim patients because tissue attenuates the sound waves as they pass deeper into the body.