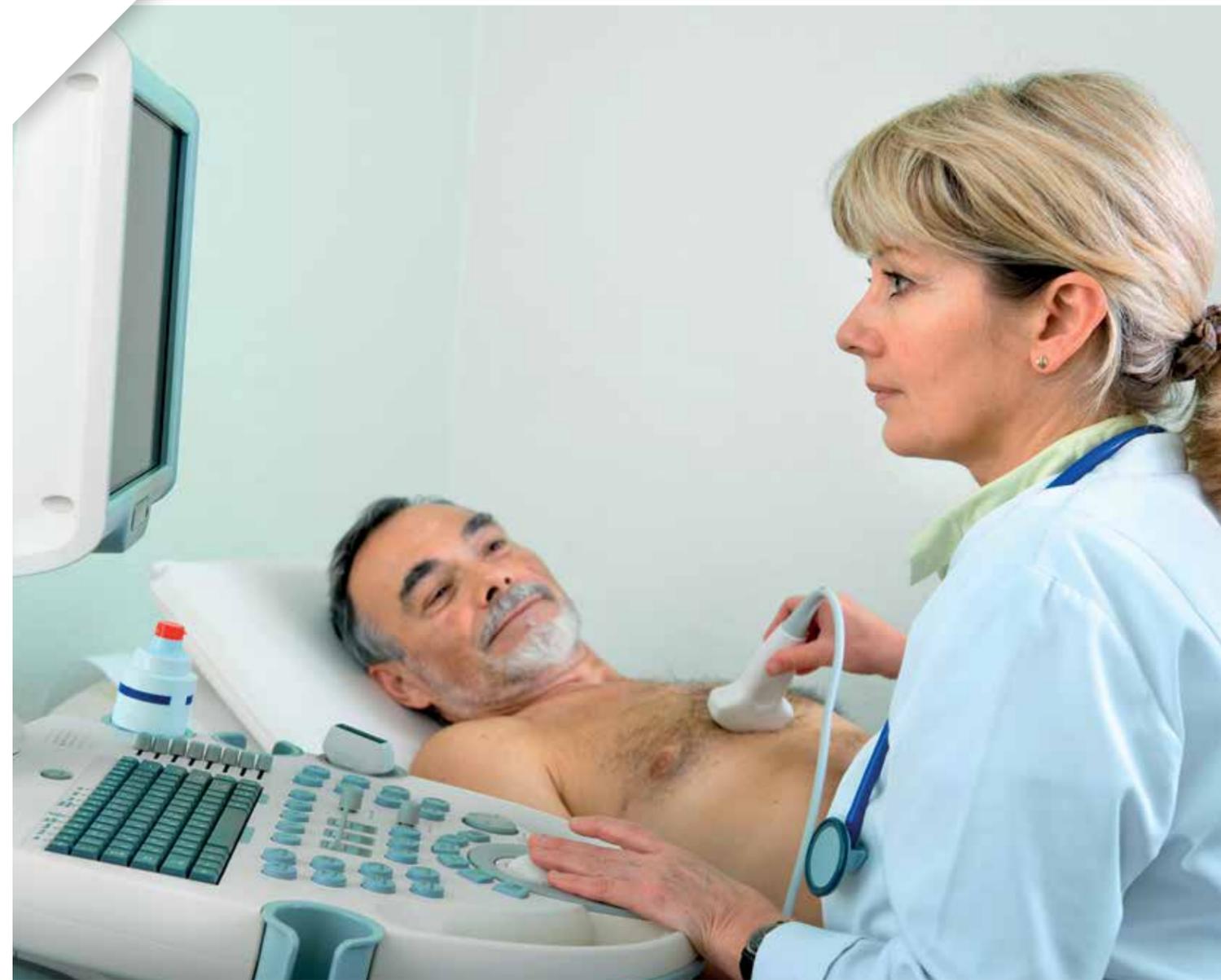


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# Having an Ultrasound Scan

Information for patients



The leaflet tells you about having an Ultrasound scan. It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are. It is not meant to replace informed discussion between you and your doctor, but can act as a starting point for such discussions.

## The Imaging Department

The Imaging Department may also be called the x-ray or Radiology Department. It is the facility in the hospital where radiological examinations of patients are carried out, using a range of equipment, such as a CT (Computed Tomography) scanner, an ultrasound machine and an MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scanner.

Radiologists are doctors specially trained to interpret the images and carry out more complex examinations. They are supported by Radiographers who are highly trained professionals and carry out x-rays and other imaging procedures.

## What is an Ultrasound scan?

An ultrasound scan is a picture of part of the inside of the body using sound waves of a frequency above the audible range of the human ear. A small handheld sensor, which is pressed carefully against the skin surface, generates sound waves and detects any echoes reflected back off the surfaces and tissue boundaries of internal organs.

## Who will be doing the ultrasound scan?

The examination may be performed by a trained doctor or a Sonographer.

Sonographers are Radiographers who have trained further to specialise in the technique of ultrasound scanning. They carry out a great number of these examinations and may also provide a descriptive report of their findings to your doctor.

## Are you required to make any special preparations?

Some preparation may be required if your pelvis, kidney or bladder are to be scanned, you may be required to ensure that your bladder is full before the examination can begin. For some examinations, such as the gall bladder and pancreas, you may be required to fast for a specified number of hours. If so, this will be explained in the accompanying appointment letter. You should tell the radiology department in advance if you have had a similar ultrasound scan recently.

## What happens during the scan?

You will be taken into a room where you will be asked to lie down on a couch; the room may be dimmed so that the pictures on the screen can be seen more clearly. A gel will be applied to your skin over the area to be scanned, for example, the abdomen. The gel allows the sensor to slide easily over the skin and helps to produce clearer pictures.

The doctor/Sonographer will slowly move the sensor over your skin while viewing the images on the screen. Records of selected images will be made so that they can be viewed later. Upon completion, the gel will be wiped off and you will be free to get dressed.

## How long will it take?

For some scans we need to give you a small injection of x-ray dye which outlines the blood vessels. You will be asked some questions prior to this. It will make you feel warm for a couple of minutes.

## Who will I see?

The process of carrying out a scan usually takes about 15-30 minutes.

## Are there any risks?

No, there are no known risks and it is considered to be very safe.

## When will you get the results?

The scan will be examined after your visit and a written report on the findings sent to your referring doctor.

**If you have any questions regarding any of the advice included in this leaflet please do not hesitate to contact the Imaging Department on 0114 263 2177**