

**Request under Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 08 November 2021.

I am pleased to confirm the following.

**1. For what symptoms would a trans-vaginal ultrasound be indicated?**

## Clinical Indications

- -Pelvic mass
- Amenorrhoea (primary amenorrhoea with absence of periods by 15 years of age in girls with secondary sexual characteristics or by 13 years of age in girls with no secondary sexual characteristics; secondary amenorrhoea with cessation of period for 3-6 months in women with previous regular menses and 6-12 months in women with previous oligomenorrhoea, NICE guidelines, 2019)
- Irregular / abnormal menses
- Enlarged uterus
- Post-menopausal bleeding
- IUCD localization
- Pelvic pain
- Primary or secondary infertility
- Persistent bloating / pelvic-abdo pain with the query of ovarian pathology
- F/U cysts. Please see appendix.
- PCOS, mainly, in patients with infertility (BMUS, 2019). Ultrasound scan should not be used for the diagnosis of PCOS in adolescents (10-24 years old) + due to the high incidence of multi-follicular ovaries in this life stage (NICE guidelines, 2018).

This is not an exhaustive list.

**2. Are there any groups of people a trans-vaginal ultrasound would not be carried out on?**

- Patient unable to give verbal consent (dementia / learning difficulties / language barriers).
- Patient declines TV scan and presents with a full bladder for TA scan.
- Virgo intacta
- IUCD localization (if seen transabdominally and no further indications to assess further).
- If fibroid uterus or pelvic mass is known or clinically suspected the sonographer will begin with a TA scan. A TV scan should be attempted in order to obtain more information, i.e., size and echo structure of ovaries, assessment of endometrial thickness.

- Patient under 16 years of age will be appointed for trans abdominal scan only unless patient in EPAU.
- Physical disability which makes patient unable to undergo the TV scan

**3. If so, why would they not be indicated?**

See above

**4. Does trust policy indicate that it is allowed to carry out trans-vaginal ultrasounds on those who have never been sexually active before?**

Performing TVS is contraindicated if the patient has not undergone penetrative intercourse. However, the sonographer discusses the procedure with the patient and if consent is given by the patient (eg if the patient has had cervical smears in the past) an TVS can be considered.

**5. If no, what is defined as sexual activity?**

The patient is asked if they have had penetrative intercourse

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If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at the address above.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Co-ordinator  
For and on behalf of Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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