

Re: Your request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

1. For what symptoms would a transvaginal ultrasound be indicated? **Any symptoms gynaecological symptoms that require an ultrasound pelvis examination.**

2. Are there any groups of people a transvaginal ultrasound would not be carried out on? If so, why would they not be indicated?

Within the Trust sonographers follow the BMUS guidance (2023),

- **Female genital mutilation (FGM) Some forms of FGM TVS scanning is not possible.**
- Postmenopausal atrophy, vaginismus, vaginitis and recent surgery.
- Patient choice.
-

Absolute contraindications for performing TVUS

Absolute contraindications for performing TVUS are few but include:

- Paediatric age group
- Premature rupture of the membranes during pregnancy
- Bleeding associated with known placenta praevia
- Vaginal obstruction

3. Does trust policy indicate that it is allowed to carry out transvaginal ultrasounds on those who have never been sexually active before? If it is not allowed, what is the reasoning behind no sexual contact being a contraindication for these scans?

Not sure if the trust has guidance on this, however sonographers TVS examinations are offered to all patients unless contraindicated.

4. If transvaginal ultrasounds are not allowed in your trust for the 'sexually inactive', what is the justification for this going against the British Medical Ultrasound Society's guidelines, which state: "The concept of virginity plays no part in the clinical decision making for a TVUS" and "if a patient has not had penetrative sex, they are still entitled to be offered, and to accept, a TVUS [transvaginal ultrasound] in the same way that cervical screening is offered to all eligible patients"?

[https://www.bmus.org/static/uploads/resources/Transvaginal Ultrasound Guidance Final With Front Cover MesUP8a.pdf](https://www.bmus.org/static/uploads/resources/Transvaginal_Ultrasound_Guidance_Final_With_Front_Cover_MesUP8a.pdf)

Following BMUS guidance TVS examinations are offered to all patients unless contraindicated.

5. What does the Trust define as 'sexual activity'?

Unknown

6. Which members of staff in your trust perform transvaginal ultrasounds?

Sonographers, Radiologists, EPAU nurses and Some Obstetric consultants.

7. Have all of those staff members received diversity and inclusion training regarding their patient-facing roles? If so, please detail the nature of the course or programme and number of hours completed.

Sonographers diversity and inclusion is a part of the mandatory training of the trust.

Our Ref: 7/2023
JANUARY 2022