



# Clinician performed ultrasound

## For training

**A clinician performed ultrasound is a non-invasive procedure performed by the bedside doctors (clinicians) caring for your baby.**

It can help optimise the care of your baby, for example an ultrasound of the heart helps us understand how your baby's heart is functioning; an ultrasound of the brain helps us discover if there is any bleeding in the brain.

### What is a training ultrasound?

Nepean Hospital is a teaching hospital for doctors specialising in newborn care. Trainee doctors are required to learn the skills of performing ultrasounds as part of their training.

### Will my baby have a training ultrasound?

If the team feels that your baby is stable they may have a training ultrasound.

As the ultrasound is for training purposes only and not for diagnosing any problems, you will not be told about the findings. The images will not be stored in the hospital system for referencing at a later time. De-identified images may be stored by the trainee, for logbook purposes only.

If the trainee is concerned about the findings, an experienced doctor will perform another ultrasound, discuss the results with you and if necessary, organise an appointment with a specialist, such as a cardiologist, as soon as possible.

### How is the ultrasound carried out?

Gel is applied to your baby's skin. A transducer which is a small piece of equipment with a smooth surface, is then placed on the gel. This helps to view an image of your baby's body parts such as the brain or heart. It is similar to the ultrasound imaging you had during your pregnancy.

A training ultrasound takes less than 30 minutes. It does not cause pain or discomfort, although babies sometimes get unsettled. If your baby is unsettled, a sugar solution given for sucking may provide comfort. If your baby continues to be unsettled, scanning will not continue.

### What are the benefits?

A training ultrasound will not directly benefit your baby. By allowing the trainee doctors to obtain these skills will help to improve the care given to other babies.

If you have any concerns, please talk to the doctor looking after your baby.

**Please let us know if you do not want your baby to have a training ultrasound.**

