

Patient information

Abdominal ultrasound

What is an ultrasound scan?

Ultrasound examinations use high-pitched sound waves produced by specialised equipment. The actual examination is quite painless and harmless.

In order to obtain adequate pictures, a little jelly will be placed on your skin; this is quite easily wiped off afterwards and should not stain your clothes.

The examination usually takes around 15 minutes. Waiting times are short and you should be seen within an hour unless there are problems or emergencies in the department.

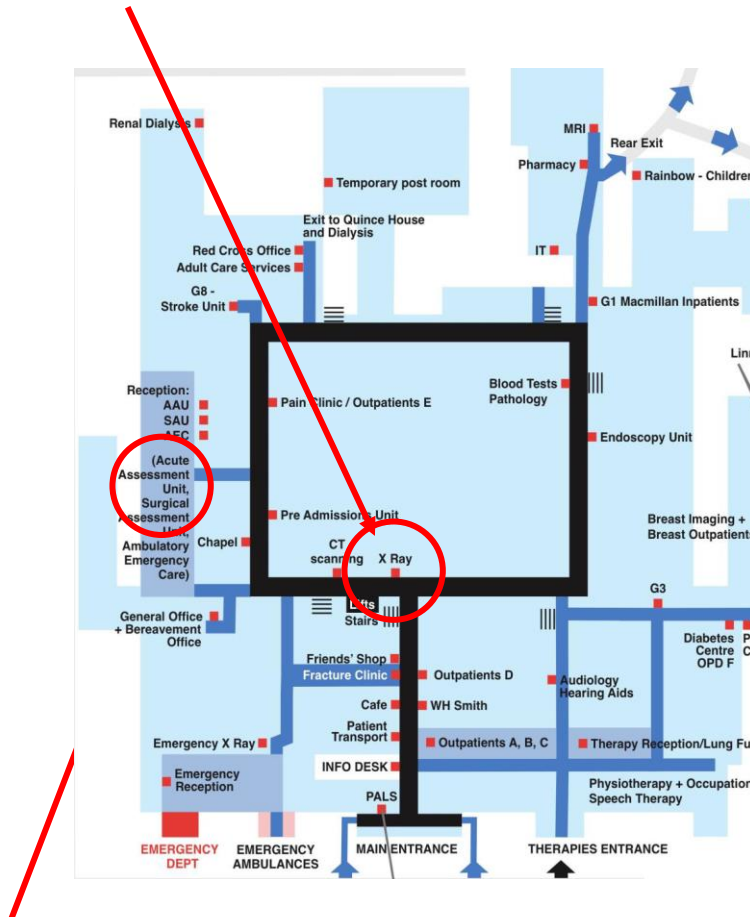
Please be aware that, depending on the date and time of your appointment, the doctor or ultrasonographer who will carry out your examination could be male or female: as could the imaging assistant or nurse who will be assisting.

If you have any objection to having either only male or only female staff in the room with you please let us know in advance.

Directions

The X-ray department is located in the center of the ground floor of the hospital.

From the main entrance, pass the restaurant and shops until you get to the main corridor and the X-ray department will be in front of you.



The Surgical Ambulatory Care Unit is based on the ground floor. When you leave the radiology department turn right and at the end of the corridor follow the signs to the Acute Assessment Unit and check in at the reception desk.

Appointment details

Date

Time

Where: X-ray (radiology) department, ground floor

Eat and drink nothing except water from midnight or for at least 6 hours prior to your ultrasound. This will help us to examine you more easily.

Please attend the department with a full bladder. To achieve this, please drink 1 - 2 pints of water one hour before your appointment time and do not empty your bladder for 1 hour prior to your appointment.

If you are diabetic please telephone either the radiology department on 01284 713378 or the Surgical Emergency Ambulatory Care unit on 01284 713985 for additional advice.

Surgical Ambulatory Emergency Care Unit (SAEC)

After your ultrasound appointment please come to the **Surgical Ambulatory Care Unit** (based on AAU), as soon as your ultrasound scan is complete.

Your ultrasound results will need to be reviewed by a consultant surgeon on the same day as your scan.

- Please do not eat and drink anything afterwards (except water) until you have been seen by the nurse or doctor
- On arrival, please report to the ward reception desk
- You will be assessed by a doctor and may have a range of investigations and treatments.

It may be necessary for you to wait in the SAEC for results of any investigations. We aim to complete this process as quickly as possible.

Important

If you feel your condition has become worse and you are unable to manage your symptoms at home, then please return to the Emergency Department (A & E) or, if an emergency, dial 999.

Contact details

If you have any queries please contact the Surgical Ambulatory Care Unit.

We are open Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 6.00pm.

Tel: 01284 713985

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo)

<https://www.accessable.co.uk>



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