

Ref: FOI/GS/ID 7901

Please reply to:
FOI Administrator
Trust Management
Maidstone Hospital
Hermitage Lane
Maidstone, Kent
ME16 9QQ
Email: mtw-tr.foiadmin@nhs.net
www.mtw.nhs.uk

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Freedom of Information Act 2000

I am writing in response to your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to transvaginal ultrasound.

You asked:

- 1. For what symptoms would a transvaginal ultrasound be indicated?*
- 2. Are there any groups of people a transvaginal ultrasound would not be carried out on?*
 - a. If so, why would they not be indicated?*
- 3. Does trust policy indicate that it is allowed to carry out transvaginal ultrasounds on those who have never been sexually active before?*
 - a. If it is not allowed, what is the reasoning behind no sexual contact being a contraindication for these scans?*
- 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)
- 5. What does the Trust define as 'sexual activity'?*
- 6. Which members of staff in your trust perform transvaginal ultrasounds?*
- 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.*

Trust response:

1. Transvaginal ultrasound the examination of choice in early pregnancy and for most gynaecological symptoms e.g. bleeding problems, pelvic pain, abdominal/ pelvic swelling or bloating, possible ovarian cysts or fibroids
2. A transvaginal ultrasound is offered to all women.
 - a. Not applicable.
3. A transvaginal ultrasound is offered to all women.
 - a. Not applicable.
4. Not applicable.
5. We do not have a definition of sexual activity as it is a nonspecific term to help guide the discussion. If a patient clearly consents to the examination we would be happy to offer irrespective of the type of sexual activity, or even if a person has never been sexually active
6. Sonographer/doctor.
7. All staff are required to complete EDI e-learning on joining the trust and there is also a slot on the Values Based Induction by the EDI team which talks about the Trust's values and support networks relevant to EDI. The e-learning and corporate induction total time is approximately one hour, however there are additional frequent communications around EDI as this is high on the trust agenda. Raising staff awareness is not limited to just completing the training.