

Information for Maternity Scan Appointments

How many people can attend my scan appointment?

Only one adult support person is permitted into the ultrasound examination room at any time. We ask that they are present for the entire scan and we are unable to facilitate the swapping of support persons at any point during the scan. This because it creates an unnecessary distraction for the sonographer who will be completing your scan.

Can my children attend my scan?

We completely appreciate that having a scan assists with building an emotional connection with your baby(ies) as part of your family expanding, however **we are unable to permit any children** (age 0-16) into the scan room for any type of scan.

There are no childcare facilities within the antenatal clinic, and Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust staff are not permitted to act as the responsible adult for unaccompanied children.

The on-site Tops Nursery can be approached if parents are unable to arrange childcare. Should you wish to explore this as an option, we advise organising in time prior to the scan date and this will come with a charge.

We encourage you to discuss any difficulties you are having with your community midwife.

What are the reasons for this policy?

Antenatal ultrasounds are important clinical examinations which check the physical structures, growth and development of your baby(ies). Sonographer focus and concentration is therefore critical and distractions or interruptions can lead to an incomplete scan, false negatives, errors or missed abnormalities.

Multiple observers or the presence of children can also lead to:

- Physical risks to safety when mobile young children are in a dark room with scanning equipment
- Noises from children and babies being hard to predict
- Exposure to children of an intimate procedure if the sonographer advises an internal (transvaginal scan) to provide clearer imaging of your baby
- Additional distress for the family/child(ren) in the event that the sonographer needs to communicate with you some unexpected news if problems with the baby are found

Author: Megan Hawthorn &
Emma Twine
Role: Lead Sonographer &
Antenatal Clinic Lead Midwife
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This document uses the term women throughout, but this should be taken to also include people who do not identify as women but who are pregnant, in labour and in the postnatal period.

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