

Open Access Ultrasound – PLEASE ATTEND WITHIN 1 MONTH
South Bristol NHS Community Hospital / Bristol Royal Infirmary
Hengrove Promenade, Bristol BS14 0DE / Marlborough St Bristol BS2 8HW

Your GP has requested that you have an ultrasound scan, and given you a request for Open Access Ultrasound.

After seeing your GP

Please telephone the **South Bristol NHS Community Hospital** Radiology Department and we will endeavour to arrange your appointment at a time convenient to you

Monday - Friday **0117 342 9695** **2.00 pm – 7:00 pm**
Saturday & Sunday **0117 342 9695** **9.00 am – 7:00 pm**

You will be asked to give your contact details.

Please follow the preparation instructions as stated below:

Upper Abdomen	Do not eat or drink for 6 hours before the appointment time
Aorta	No Preparation
Renal tract (kidneys and bladder)	Please fill your bladder prior to your appointment (drink 1 pint of water approx. 1 hour before your allotted time)

Please attend approximately 15mins before your allocated time slot so that your details can be checked and request processed.

When you arrive

The waiting room serves not only the Ultrasound rooms but some X-ray rooms as well, so it may appear as though some patients are being called out of turn.

We will endeavour to see to see you at your allotted time, however, please appreciate some examinations are more complex and may take longer than expected; your patience would be appreciated.

What does an ultrasound scan involve?

Ultrasound is the use of sound waves to produce an image. The sound waves cannot be heard but they are sent into the body and their 'echo' detected again after they have been reflected by the internal organs. In order to allow these sound waves to pass through the body a jellylike substance is applied to the appropriate area of the skin and then the ultrasound probe is moved over that area on the body. The operator will apply a little pressure to your abdomen to improve image detail. The images are viewed on a screen and you will be asked to breathe in and hold your breath at various intervals during the examination.

X-rays do not generally give adequate information when imaging the soft tissue organs, whereas an ultrasound scan often shows the structure of the internal organs in good detail.

Ultrasound is regarded as a safe procedure, and is the same type of examination performed on pregnant women during their obstetric care.

What Happens?

The examination will be performed by a Radiographer who specialises in ultrasound examinations. Each scan takes approximately 20mins. On occasion an x-ray is also required to complement the ultrasound examination.

When the scan is completed you may leave immediately, and the report will be sent to your GP within 10 days, unless it is urgent when the report will be telephoned to your GP.

After the examination you may eat and drink normally.

Any Questions?

If you have any questions about the service, please contact the Radiology Dept on **0117 3429695**
Any comments you have about the service will be gratefully received.

Bus services serving Hengrove Park from April 2011.

First services 20, 36, 51, 75, 76 and 90 serve Hengrove Park.