

## **Information for Patients attending for an Ultrasound Examination**

### **What preparation is required?**

You will need to arrive for your appointment with a full bladder as this will allow a good picture to be seen on the scan; therefore you will need to drink 1½ pints of non-fizzy liquid 1½ hours before the scan. You will have access to water at the clinic should you need it.

### **What happens at the clinic?**

Please report to the reception desk at the Health Centre and tell the receptionist that you have arrived for the Community Urology Clinic. They will be expecting you and will ask you to sit where they can see you. They will inform the Community Urology Clinic staff of your arrival.

### **What happens at the ultrasound scan?**

The examination is performed by a Radiographer who specialises in ultrasound.

An ultrasound scan is a simple painless procedure that uses sound waves to produce an image. The sound waves cannot be heard but they are sent into the body and their 'echo' detected after they have been reflected by the internal organs.

In order to allow the waves to pass through the body a water-based gel is applied to the skin of your abdomen and then an ultrasound probe is moved over that area. The operator will apply a little pressure to your abdomen to improve the 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.

Once the examination is completed the gel will be wiped away. It will not stain your clothing. Each scan takes approximately 15 minutes

### **What happens next?**

You will have a consultation with a urology specialist.

A copy of the report sent to your GP will be given to you. You will then be free to go home.

After the examination you may eat and drink normally.