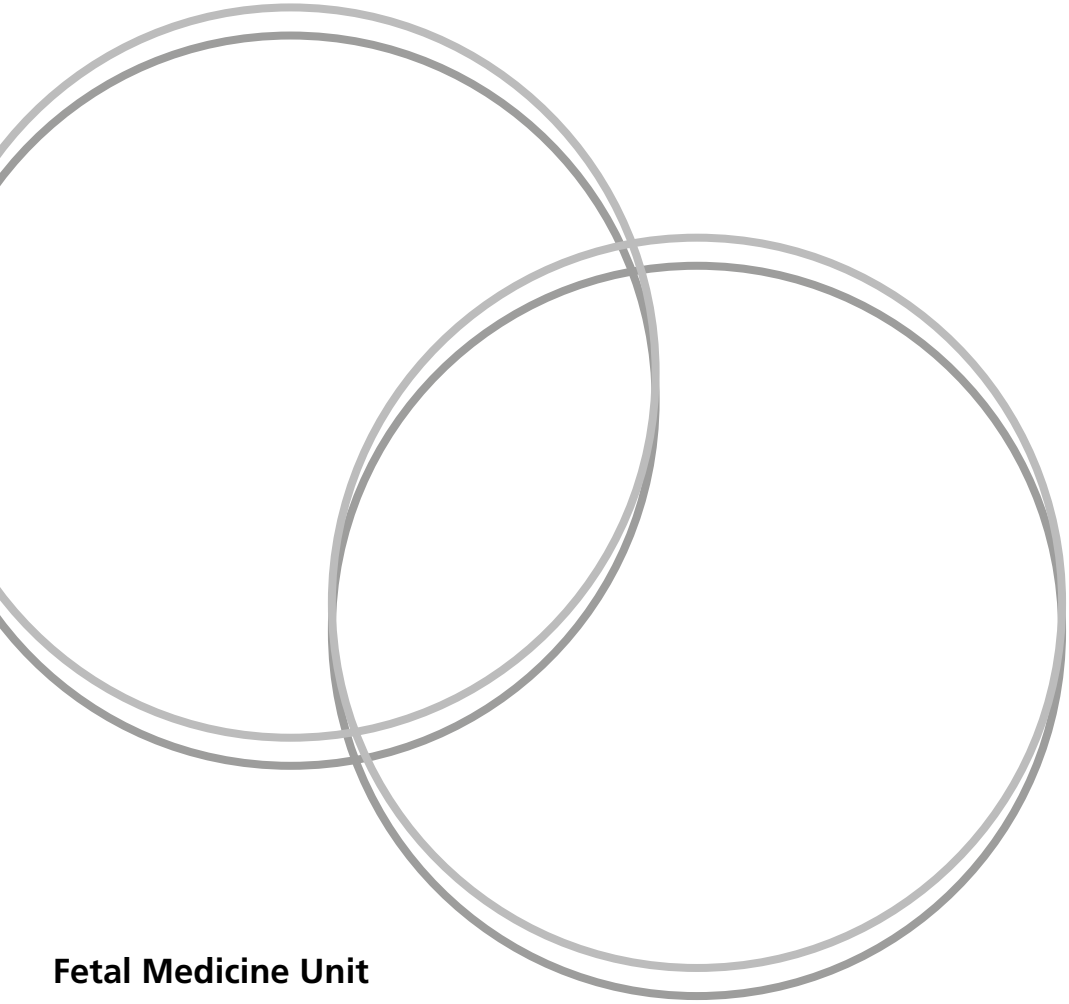
NHS
Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Having a cervical scan

Information for parents to be



Fetal Medicine Unit

Your appointment details

(Woman's addressograph)

Appointment date: .....

Appointment time: .....

Appointment place: .....

This service is offered through the Oxford Fetal Medicine Unit. It is designed to identify those pregnancies with a higher chance of needing increased observation and monitoring.

What is a cervical scan?

This is a scan that measures the length of your cervix (the neck of the womb). It helps us to predict the chances of you giving birth to your baby early. If your cervix is normal length (which depends on the number of weeks pregnant you are) then the chances of a late miscarriage or early (preterm) birth are reduced.

Your obstetrician has referred you for a scan of your cervix. The scan is only carried out in those women thought to have a higher chance of giving birth to their baby early. This may be for various reasons, including a previous early birth, colposcopy treatment at that time in pregnancy, surgery to the cervix, or because you are carrying more than one baby.

If your cervix is shorter than normal then this can suggest that the chances of giving birth to your baby early are higher than average. There are several treatment options available, including using medicines and/or insertion of a stitch into the cervix. If you have a short cervix an obstetrician will talk to you shortly after the scan about the best treatment for you and your baby.

What's involved?

The scan is performed internally. It involves inserting a probe into your vagina so that it lies next to your cervix. This is the best way to get an accurate measurement of your cervix. The scan is not painful and does not harm you or your baby in any way. You will need to have an empty bladder for the scan.

The person carrying out the scan may be a doctor, an obstetrician (this a doctor that specialises in childbirth), a midwife or a sonographer (a sonographer is a person specially trained to carry out ultrasound scans).

Before we carry out the cervical scan, you will then be asked to undress your lower half and lie on the couch. You will be covered by a sheet or blanket. The scan takes just a few minutes to perform. You will be offered a chaperone (member of staff to be present with you throughout the scan). Your partner can also be present during this scan.

This appointment does not replace any appointments you have with your midwife or obstetrician. You will still need to have your normal pregnancy checks. We will not measure your blood pressure or test your urine, so you do not need to bring a urine sample with you. You do not need to bring anyone with you but you are welcome to do so if you wish. It is fine for you to drive home afterwards.

At the end of the scan we will tell you the result and if needed arrange for an obstetrician to see you.

How to contact us

We hope you find this information helpful. If you have any questions, please phone us on **01865 851165**

Further Information

Please speak to the department where you are being seen if you would like an interpreter. You will find their contact details on your appointment letter. Please also ask them if you would like this information leaflet in another format, such as:

- easy read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronically
- in another language.

We have tried to make this information meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They will be happy to help.

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Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
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