

Attending the combined scan clinic

We have written this leaflet to give you some information about the combined ultrasound and paediatric clinic so you have more idea what to expect.

We understand how stressful this situation is for parents and it can be difficult to remember information you are given, so if possible please bring someone to support you at the appointment. The purpose of this appointment is for your baby to be thoroughly examined in the presence of a consultant obstetrician (pregnancy doctor), an associate specialist in ultrasound (scan doctor) and a consultant neonatologist (baby doctor). This ensures good communication between the two different teams (maternity and paediatrics), and ensures that you will be given a proper explanation of what will happen before and directly after the baby is born. One of the screening midwives will also be present. She is there to liaise with other departments and is your point of contact if you need further information. As a lot of conditions we are seeing are unusual, we sometimes have junior doctors or trainee midwives there so that they can learn about them too. So please don't feel intimidated by the numbers of people present – we are all there for a good reason.

It is always a good idea to write down any questions you may have beforehand and bring them with you to the appointment. The appointment will last about 30 minutes but this could be longer if the problem is particularly complex, or if it is difficult to get clear views on the scan. Sometimes, the baby just won't co-operate, and we will have to give you another appointment to have another look.

Once the scan of your baby is finished, the neonatologist will discuss with you the plan of care for your baby once he or she has been born. A letter outlining this plan then goes into your hospital notes and a copy will be sent to you at home. A letter is also sent to your GP and community midwife to keep them informed. If necessary, another appointment will be made before you leave the hospital to attend the following combined clinic (they are held once a month). Otherwise, you will be seen in the hospital or community as appropriate.

Your next appointment is: _____

You can telephone the screening midwives Mon-Fri 8.30am-4.30pm. 0118 322 8507 / 7292

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

Written: Jeanne Harris, Antenatal Screening Co-ordinator, July 2009. Reviewed: July 2014, Nov 2016, March 2018. Approved: Maternity Info Group & Patient Information Manager, April 2018. Review due: April 2020.