



Pregnancy



Pregnancy is an exciting time in a family's life but can also be quite daunting. There is some information below that will help you understand the general ultrasound exams you will have throughout your pregnancy

Dating Scan

The purpose of this ultrasound is to clarify and confirm your estimated due date (EDD). If you know the date of the first day of your last menstrual cycle this can help us to book you in for an appropriate appointment. If you have the scan too early the sonographer may not be able to give accurate information as your baby is so small, in this case you may need to come back for a second scan a couple of weeks later.

Nuchal Translucency (NT)

This ultrasound also known as the first trimester screening scan has a very short window that it can be performed, 11 weeks 2 days to 13 weeks 5 days, however the best time is 12 weeks 3 days. It is combined with a blood test to determine the risk of your unborn child having a chromosomal disorder for Trisomy 21 (Downs Syndrome), Trisomy 13 (Patau Syndrome) and Trisomy 18 (Edwards Syndrome). This exam is considered optional by Medicare and can not be Bulk Billed. There is a private cost that will be payable on the day of the exam. If your doctor has written information that is Medicare eligible on the referral or you are over the age of 34 you may be eligible for a rebate.

12-16 Week Scan

If you have opted to not go ahead with the NT scan, as you have had the NIPT/Harmony test or for personal reasons your doctor will usually suggest that you have a 12-16 week scan so that they can check on the growth and development of your baby.

Anatomy Scan

This is often the most exciting scan of the pregnancy. Your baby may be developed enough to see all the anatomic structures as long as your baby is in the correct position. This exam is best performed at 20 weeks so that we can get the most information in a single visit. During this exam the sonographer has a large list of images that they need to collect of both the baby and you. If your baby is in a difficult position the sonographer may ask you to go for a walk or eat something sweet to get them moving.

Occasionally some structures may not be well visible and you may be asked to come back another day to complete the scan.



After 22 weeks

In some cases, your doctor may wish you to have a scan or multiple scans later in your pregnancy. These scans are often to measure the growth of your baby and/or the position of your

cervix or placenta. The more information the doctor or delivery team have, the more they can plan for delivery.

We have the following table for you, that you can write your EDD and ultrasound appointments.

My EDD is.....

SCAN	DATE	TIME
Dating		
Nuchal or 12-16 week		
Anatomy		