

## Children in the Scan Rooms

We are integrating our services in line with other hospitals within the Wessex region and we are very sorry that the Scan Rooms in Maternity **can no longer permit children to attend scans.** There are no child care facilities in the Antenatal Waiting Area and children should not be left unaccompanied under any circumstances. If you do attend with children, your scan will be postponed, there are no exceptions. There are several reasons for this change.

Children get very bored in the scan rooms and can sometimes be very disruptive. The Sonographer that does your scan needs a high level of concentration. All the scans we do have a clinical purpose – we are checking your baby for any anomalies/abnormalities at both your 1<sup>st</sup> Trimester and 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester scans. If your Sonographer becomes distracted, something could be missed on your scan and could have consequences for your baby. Growth scans also need high levels of concentration as clinical decisions are made on the strength of these scans – you and your baby may be subjected to unnecessary interventions if your scan is not accurate.

The scan room is a working clinical area and is not designed to accommodate children. It allows the effective practice of performing scans. When you are distracted with your scan, children have the opportunity to wander. The scan rooms contain very hot water taps which has the potential to scald your child. We have high voltage sensitive electronic equipment within the scan room putting that child at high risk of electrocution if they play with the wires and sockets.

Parents also do not consider that there may be bad news at a scan and that news has to be broken to the parents in front of the children, who then have to watch their parents in distress.

Sometimes an external scan is not good enough to see your baby and we may need to do an intimate transvaginal (internal) scan which is not always appropriate for your child to see



## **Adults in the Scan Rooms**

The scan rooms are very small and we can only accommodate **one accompanying adult to your entire scan**, and there are valid reasons for this change.

In the past, Sonographers have allowed people to 'swap' places with the adults but this is very disruptive to the Sonographers concentration and something could be missed during your baby's examination. Generally people are not able to interpret scan images and only recognise the baby's profile, which your family can see in a free photograph that we will give you to take home.

Also in the past we have allowed other family members to come and see the end of the scan but in recent months the number of 'supporters' have increased. The waiting area is small and several other clinics also run at the same time in this department including Gynaecology and Oncology (women with cancer) and these women have had to stand in busy clinics due to the sheer number of scan supporters taking seats.

When there are several people in the scan room, they tend to start having conversations, which the Sonographer finds it difficult to give you any information during the scan including the possibly of giving bad news.

**Therefore only one adult is permitted in the scan room for the entire scan**

***Although we want you to enjoy your scan and we recognise that your family and friends want to support you, the scans we offer here are clinical examinations of your baby and not 'entertainment' or gender scans.***

***If you want your family and friends to attend a scan there are several private scan options available.***