

Document Title: <i>Midwife Sonographers – SOP for women identified to have a low-lying placenta/placenta praevia at their anomaly USS.</i>	1 of 6	Approval Date: 10/11/25
Reference Number: UHBOBS171		Next Review Date: 10/11/28
Version Number:		Date of Publication: 10/11/25
Approved By: Maternity Professional Forum		

Reference No. UHBOBS171 Version Number: 1	Date of Next Review: 10/11/28 Previous Trust/LHB Reference Number:
--	---

**Midwife Sonographers – SOP for women identified to have a low-lying placenta/placenta praevia at their anomaly USS**

**Introduction and Aim**

This guideline is for health professionals within maternity services to ensure that all staff are aware of the procedure when diagnosing a low-lying placenta or placenta praevia and are working to provide the same level of care to all women.

**Objectives**

- Recommended practice based on the most up-to-date research evidence.
- To provide clear pathways to guide clinical practice.
- To support women to make informed choices about their care.

**Scope**

This procedure applies to all of our staff in all locations including those with honorary contracts

Equality Health Impact Assessment	An Equality Health Impact Assessment (EHIA) has/has not been completed. (please delete as necessary) Where it has not been completed indicate why e.g. 'This is because a procedure has been written to support the implementation the ..... Policy. The Equality Impact Assessment completed for the policy found here to be a negative/positive/no impact.
Documents to read alongside this Procedure	List all documents the reader is advised to read alongside / in support of this document
Approved by	Maternity Professional Forum

Accountable Executive or Clinical Board Director	Title of post holder
Author(s)	Amanda Neary, Midwife Sonographer

Document Title: <i>Midwife Sonographers – SOP for women identified to have a low-lying placenta/placenta praevia at their anomaly USS.</i>	2 of 6	Approval Date: 10/11/25
Reference Number: UHBOBS171		Next Review Date: 10/11/28
Version Number:		Date of Publication: 10/11/25
Approved By: Maternity Professional Forum		

<p><b>Disclaimer</b>  If the review date of this document has passed, please ensure that the version you are using is the most up to date either by contacting the document author or the <a href="#">Governance Directorate</a>.</p>
---

Summary of reviews/amendments			
Version Number	Date of Review Approved	Date Published	Summary of Amendments
1			New Document

# 1 Table of Contents

## Contents

1	Table of Contents.....	2
2	Background .....	2
3	Eligible Women.....	2
4	Exclusion Criteria.....	3
5	Standard Operating Procedure.....	3
6	References.....	4
7	Appendix.....	5

## 2 Background

Placenta praevia is associated with high maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality. The rates of placenta praevia have increased and will continue to do so because of rising rates of caesarean deliveries, increased maternal age and use of assisted reproductive technology. The term placenta praevia should be used when the placenta lies directly over the internal os. For pregnancies at more than 16 weeks of gestation the term low-lying placenta should be used when the placental edge is less than 20 mm from the internal os on transabdominal or transvaginal scanning (TVS) (RCOG, 2018).

Document Title: <i>Midwife Sonographers – SOP for women identified to have a low-lying placenta/placenta praevia at their anomaly USS.</i>	3 of 6	Approval Date: 10/11/25
Reference Number: UHBOBS171		Next Review Date: 10/11/28
Version Number:		Date of Publication: 10/11/25
Approved By: Maternity Professional Forum		

### 3 Eligible Women: -

- 32 weeks gestation
- Low lying placenta (within 20mm from internal os) at anomaly USS
- Placenta praevia at anomaly USS

### 4 Exclusion Criteria: -

- Placenta praevia where the placenta is positioned anterior at anomaly USS with a history of caesarean section or uterine surgery

## 5 Standard Operating Procedure

Should a patient be deemed as having a low-lying placenta or placenta praevia during their anomaly scan, they should be referred to the Antenatal Clinic Midwife following their scan. Advice should be provided to women as per placenta praevia guidance.

A follow-up scan should be arranged for 32 weeks gestation with the Midwife Sonographers on the MIDWPLAC list on a Wednesday afternoon. However, if they have placenta praevia with an anterior placenta and have a history of caesarean section or uterine surgery, they should be followed up in the specialist Sonographer clinic, NOT in the Midwife Sonographer clinic.

At 32 weeks, a TAS can be performed to locate placental edge in relation to the cervix. However, if unable to see the placental leading edge or internal cervical os on TAS, then a TVS must be performed.

TVS should be performed with an empty bladder.

If SFH has been normal throughout pregnancy, then a growth scan is not required. If there is concern regarding fetal growth, this should also be performed during the placental location scan.

If the leading placental edge (anterior or posterior) is >20mm from the internal os, then antenatal care can continue as planned.

Document Title: <i>Midwife Sonographers – SOP for women identified to have a low-lying placenta/placenta praevia at their anomaly USS.</i>	4 of 6	Approval Date: 10/11/25
Reference Number: UHBOBS171		Next Review Date: 10/11/28
Version Number:		Date of Publication: 10/11/25
Approved By: Maternity Professional Forum		

If the leading placental edge is <20mm from the internal os, then a repeat TVS at 36 weeks should be arranged with a consultant review.

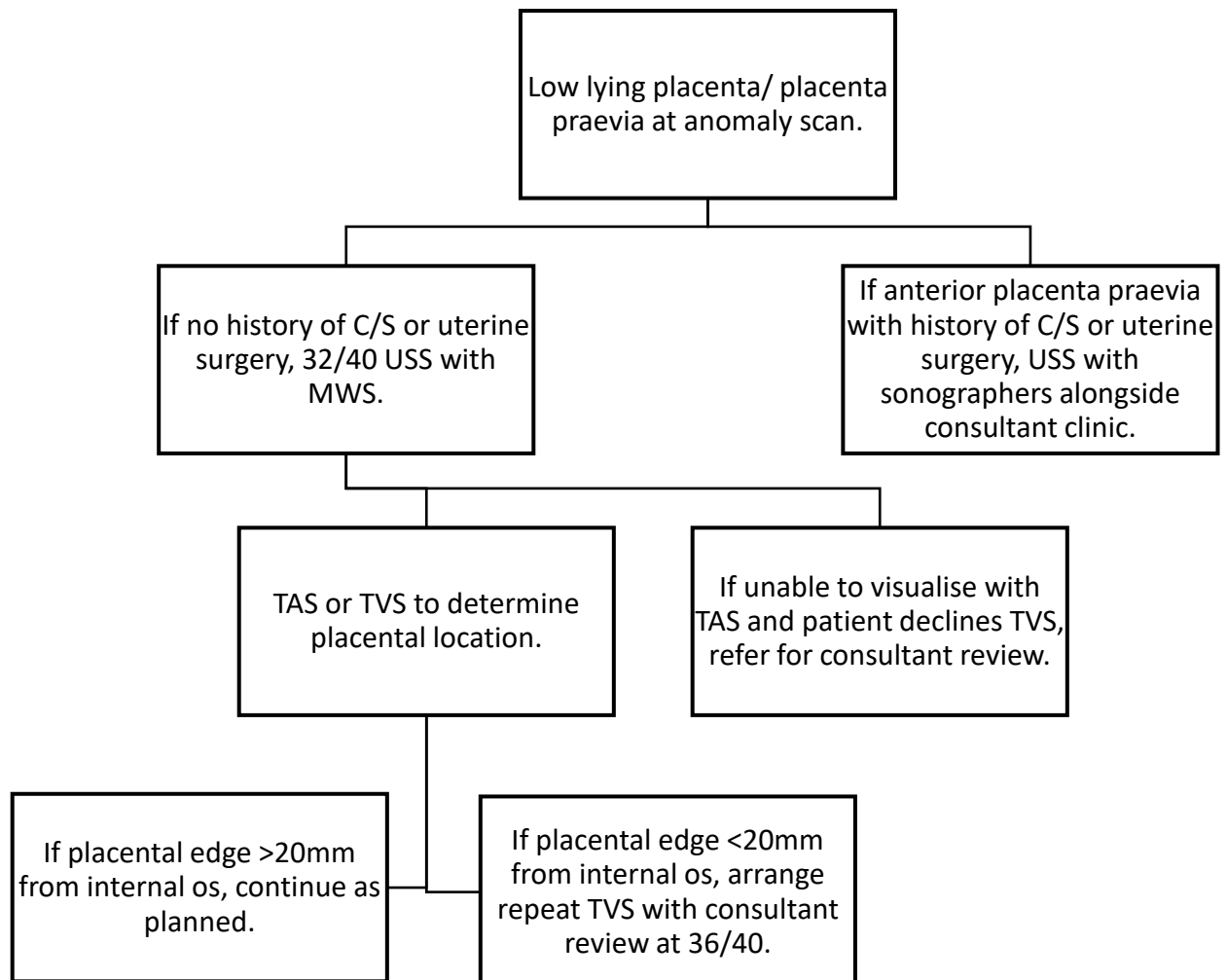
If the patient declines a TVS and the placental edge is not located, the patient should have a consultant review.

## 6 References

RCOG. Placenta Praevia and Placenta Accreta: Diagnosis and Management. Green-top Guideline No 27a, 2018

Document Title: <i>Midwife Sonographers – SOP for women identified to have a low-lying placenta/placenta praevia at their anomaly USS.</i>	5 of 6	Approval Date: 10/11/25
Reference Number: UHBOBS171		Next Review Date: 10/11/28
Version Number:		Date of Publication: 10/11/25
Approved By: Maternity Professional Forum		

## 7 Appendix A



Document Title: <i>Midwife Sonographers – SOP for women identified to have a low-lying placenta/placenta praevia at their anomaly USS.</i>	6 of 6	Approval Date: 10/11/25
Reference Number: UHBOBS171		Next Review Date: 10/11/28
Version Number:		Date of Publication: 10/11/25
Approved By: Maternity Professional Forum		