

Standard Operating Procedure for the incomplete anomaly scan between 18 and 20 weeks and 6 days gestation	1 of 4	Reference no. UHBOBS186
Approved by Maternity Professional Forum		Date Published: 25/9/25
		Date for review: 25/9/28



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Caerdydd a'r Fro
Cardiff and Vale
University Health Board

Radiology, Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering Directorate
Radiology Department

Standard Operating Procedure for the incomplete anomaly scan between 18 weeks and 20 weeks and 6 days gestation

INTRODUCTION

This is a joint document between Radiology and Maternity services.

The purpose of the fetal anomaly ultrasound scan is to screen for significant structural fetal anomalies that are likely to have an adverse effect on the health of the mother or baby and for which an effective intervention is available.

The fetal anomaly ultrasound scan must be offered and an appointment made between 18+0 weeks and 20+6 weeks of pregnancy if the woman presents for antenatal care before this gestation.

Cardiff and Vale UHB anomaly scans adhere to the recommendations set by Antenatal Screening Wales and the agreed All Wales fetal anomaly screening scan standard checklist (April 2020). The recommendation states the minimum images to be recorded at the 18+0 weeks to 20+6 weeks fetal anomaly ultrasound scan. Cardiff and Vale UHB also adhere to locally agreed supplementary imaging protocols.

Antenatal Screening Wales advise if the standard scan checklist cannot be completed, the woman should be offered one further ultrasound scan to try to complete the pathway.

This second examination should be completed before 22+6 weeks of pregnancy.

Where it is not possible to complete the standard checklist on the second scan, the sonographer must inform the woman as to why and no further scan should be offered.

OBJECTIVES

To provide a pathway to follow in the event that the fetal anomaly scan checklist cannot be completed.

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Documents to read alongside this	https://nhs.wales365.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/PHW_ScrInfProComms/Antenatal%20screening%20documents/Education%20and%20training/Ultrasound/V5%20Antenatal%20Screening%20Wales%20agreed%20all%20Wales%20fetal%20anomaly%20screening%20scan%20standard%20checklist%20.doc?d=w2a4e2a826d244419b8106e68474e4b2a&csf=1&web=1&e=X2RH00 Antenatal screening Wales anomaly https://nhs.wales365.sharepoint.com/sites/PHW_ScrInfProComms/SitePages/Ultrasound.aspx

Disclaimer

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 [Radiology Directorate](#).

OUT OF DATE POLICY DOCUMENTS MUST NOT BE RELIED ON

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PURPOSE

Within Cardiff and Vale UHB, it has been agreed to offer the women up to three appointments to try to complete the anomaly scan checklist and pathway. It should be explained to the women that the offer of a third appointment sits outside the Antenatal Screening Wales recommendation of two scans, and the third appointment is optional but the importance of completing the anomaly scan and pathway scan should be discussed. The third scan should ideally be completed before 23+1 weeks gestation to allow time for referral to fetal medicine should an anomaly be detected.

Decline of third rebook scan:

If the woman declines a third rebook scan:

This should be documented in the Radiology scan report;

It should be documented in the woman's maternity notes on the green 'Intrapartum Plan of Care' sheet that the anomaly scan has not been completed.

From July 2025 it should be documented in Badgernet;

An email should be sent by the performing Sonographer to inform the Radiology Consultant Sonographers or Superintendent sonographers of the woman's decision.

The Consultant / Superintendent Sonographer will email the Antenatal Clinic Operational Lead and Antenatal Screening Lead so an alert can be added to E3. The E3 alert should include 'Anomaly checklist incomplete - please be aware when performing the neonatal examination.'

Acceptance of the third rebook scan:

The third rebook scan should be booked at UHW and ideally onto a Consultant Sonographer list.

The third rebook scan can be completed by any appropriately trained sonographer. If the scan cannot be completed at the third rebook appointment a consultant sonographers' opinion should be sought for confirmation.

If at the third scan the anomaly checklist is completed a Radiology report will be issued stating that the anomaly scan has been completed. No further action is required as the pathway is completed.

If at the third rebook scan it is **not** possible to complete the anomaly scan no further appointments will be offered.

It should be documented in the Radiology anomaly scan report that the anomaly pathway has not been completed.

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From July 2025 the sonographer should document 'anomaly scan incomplete' in Badgernet by creating a clinical risk.

Consultant sonographer to email the Antenatal Clinic Operational Lead and Antenatal Screening Lead so an alert can be added to E3. The E3 alert should include 'Anomaly checklist incomplete - please be aware when performing the neonatal examination.'



