

25 March 2020

Dear all midwives

PO Box 130 000

City East

Christchurch 8141

pacificradiology.com

This is an update to let you know how we will be managing obstetric imaging at Pacific Radiology over the next few weeks while we are at alert levels 3 and 4.

We are planning to continue our scanning services as usual over this time, including nuchal and anatomy screening examinations, but we will need to make a few changes in how we do this in order to keep your women and our staff safe:

1. *The obstetric scanning will take place only at our sites at Reflect and St George's in Christchurch, and at Collingwood St in Nelson.*

Reflect will be scanning pregnant women only from Thursday morning (alert level 4).

2. *We are asking that women attend their scanning appointment alone.*

While we realise that it may be disappointing for women if partners or children cannot attend the scan, we need to keep our pregnant women safe at all times, and that means minimising visitors to our sites. The only exceptions to this are when there is **significant clinical concern** regarding miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy (section 88 codes TA and EP). These women may bring a support person with them (but no children, please).

All women will be able to access their scan images to their devices free of charge.

3. *Any unwell women or those with a history of recent travel, or contact with a known or suspected COVID 19 case will be asked to rebook non-urgent scans, either after alert level 4, or after 14 days after resolution of any symptoms.*

We realise that a few women in this situation may miss the window for NT assessment, but they may still access second trimester serum screening (MSS 2), or NIPS, if they can fund the latter. We are happy to offer early anatomy assessment for these women after the time intervals outlined above.

4. *Unwell women requiring an urgent scan need to be discussed with the Radiologist at Reflect on 03 3555 666, and in Nelson, Regional Manager - Craig McQuillan 027 5032891.*

Depending on the clinical situation, we may recommend referral to CWH, or will arrange the scan at a time to minimise disruption to the department and to reduce exposure to our other patients.

5. *Please consider faxing your referrals to our sites in order to reduce handling of paper*

6. Our sonography staff will be wearing masks and gloves during the scan, and will be endeavouring to complete the scan in as short a time as possible without compromising the quality of the examination.

This is to protect our staff, and your women. Please let your clients know and ask them not to take this personally.

7. There may be short delays between scans to allow our staff to clean surfaces and ultrasound equipment with anti-viral wipes between scans.

8. During this time we may experience unavoidable reductions in scanning capacity; therefore we ask you to refer women for all clinically indicated scans. This includes routine NT and AN scans at this stage.

If you are uncertain regarding appropriateness of scans, please refer to

<https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/new-zealand-obstetric-ultrasound-guidelines>

If recommendations are made in the radiology report regarding specific intervals for follow up, usually relating to first trimester scanning, we ask that you adhere to them, as unnecessary or inappropriately booked scans may disadvantage other women's access.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact

Canterbury - Reflect Radiologist 03 3555 666

Nelson/Marlborough - Pacific Radiology Nelson 03 5482 745.

With many thanks for your cooperation in these unprecedented times,

Rachael McEwing

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Pacific Radiology Canterbury**

Paul Dukes

**Managing Radiologist
Pacific Radiology Nelson**