



Obstetric Ultrasound Disclosure

An ultrasound exam has been ordered to aid in the care of your pregnancy. Ultrasound is a valuable medical tool in helping to care for you and your baby, and we strive for excellence in every ultrasound we perform. However, the science is not exact and our ultrasound findings during the pregnancy may not exactly match the findings at birth. Some conditions simply cannot be identified by ultrasound at all, while other types of birth defects can only be seen some of the time. Medically appropriate use of ultrasound in pregnancy is considered safe, and no harmful effects of ultrasound for you or your baby have been identified after nearly 50 years of use.

The physicians, sonographers, equipment and practices at Women's Healthcare Associates (WHA) and Northwest Perinatal Center (NWP) have met the strict standards of and are certified by the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM).

Sometimes we are unable to get all the required pictures of your baby due to either the timing of the exam during pregnancy, the position of the baby, the amount of fluid surrounding the baby, the presence of abdominal scar tissue, maternal weight and others. After the ultrasound pictures are reviewed, in some instances you may receive a phone call to schedule another ultrasound appointment at a later date. This does NOT mean your baby has a problem, but rather we want to look again when the baby is bigger or in a different position.

In accordance with clinical guidelines established by the AIUM, WHA and NWP do not allow videotaping or photography in the ultrasound room. This is to avoid distraction during the exam and assure a thorough ultrasound study for you and your baby. We routinely capture several pictures of your baby as a keepsake. In addition, a flash drive containing pictures of your ultrasound exam is available for purchase upon request.

The sex of your baby will be present on the report sent to your prenatal care provider and is likely to appear in your electronic health record. To avoid accidentally revealing this portion of the ultrasound exam, it is suggested that you do not look at this report.

Patient Initials

Financial Disclosure

A complete ultrasound exam may consist of more than one technique or approach. Examples include a vaginal study or an evaluation of blood flow to the baby. The need for additional imaging techniques is often determined based on the findings of the exam. Beyond the initial exam, follow-up studies on a different day may be performed to obtain additional pictures as described above. **Because of these factors, you may see more than one charge related to your ultrasound(s) on your statement.** You may also see the name of the physician who interpreted your ultrasound on your statement. This may or may not be the same provider who ordered your ultrasound.

Ultrasound costs may be covered by insurance; however, the charges may be applied to your deductible by your insurance company which means you may be responsible for some or all of the costs. It is recommended that you check with your insurance company to determine your coverage, and speak with one of the financial counselors in our office for a good-faith estimate of the portion of the cost you may be responsible for.

I have read and understood the information above relating to the limitations of ultrasound and my potential financial responsibility.

Signature _____ Date _____