

FOI_1006_2022-23 – FOI Request Concerning – Transvaginal ultrasounds

SOLENT SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE ONLY 16/01/2023

1) For what symptoms would a transvaginal ultrasound be indicated?

Lower abdominal pain, bloating, irregular bleeding, missing IUS/ IUD (coil) threads, uncertainty as to position of coil within uterus / pelvis

2) Are there any groups of people a transvaginal ultrasound would not be carried out on? If so, why would they not be indicated?

No

3) Does trust policy indicate that it is allowed to carry out transvaginal ultrasounds on those who have never been sexually active before? If it is not allowed, what is the reasoning behind no sexual contact being a contraindication for these scans?

The sexual health service is only commissioned to provide healthcare for sexually active patients so by definition all patients they would be sexually active.

4) If transvaginal ultrasounds are not allowed in your trust for the 'sexually inactive', what is the justification for this going against the British Medical Ultrasound Society's guidelines, which state: "The concept of virginity plays no part in the clinical decision making for a TVUS" and "if a patient has not had penetrative sex, they are still entitled to be offered, and to accept, a TVUS [transvaginal ultrasound] in the same way that cervical screening is offered to all eligible patients"?
[https://www.bmus.org/static/uploads/resources/Transvaginal Ultrasound Guidance Final With Front Cover MesUP8a.pdf](https://www.bmus.org/static/uploads/resources/Transvaginal%20Ultrasound%20Guidance%20Final%20With%20Front%20Cover%20MesUP8a.pdf)

N/A – for sexual health

5) What does the Trust define as 'sexual activity'?

Solent Sexual health definition of "sexual activity"- any form of sexual activity including non-penetrative sexual contact

6) Which members of staff in your trust perform transvaginal ultrasounds?

Solent Sexual Health service: Senior sexual health doctors

7) Have all of those staff members received diversity and inclusion training regarding their patient-facing roles? If so, please detail the nature of the course or programme and number of hours completed.

All do diversity and inclusion training as part of essential training – every 3 years as per Trust guidelines