

ULTRASOUND AT 36 WEEKS GESTATION FOR PRESENTATION

This LOP is developed to guide clinical practice at the Royal Hospital for Women. Individual patient circumstances may mean that practice diverges from this LOP.

1. AIM

- To confirm cephalic presentation at 36 weeks gestation, or implement plan for non-cephalic presentation

2. PATIENT

- Pregnant woman at 36 weeks gestation with a singleton pregnancy

3. STAFF

- Medical and midwifery staff accredited to perform bedside ultrasound

4. EQUIPMENT

- Portable ultrasound
- Ultrasound gel

5. CLINICAL PRACTICE

- Advise woman that a bedside ultrasound will be recommended at her routine 36-week antenatal visit and that the sole purpose is to confirm presentation of her fetus
- Recommend woman attend 36-week appointment in usual model of care at RHW, if resources not available to perform bedside ultrasound in community clinics
- Perform bedside ultrasound
- Confirm cephalic presentation if seen on ultrasound
- Arrange formal ultrasound if cephalic presentation cannot be confirmed, ideally at RHW Medical Imaging Department
- Arrange appointment by 37 weeks gestation, if non-cephalic presentation confirmed with formal ultrasound, in:
 - obstetric antenatal clinic in woman's usual model of care
 - breech antenatal clinic
- Document all findings and management plans in medical record and on antenatal card
- Ensure formal ultrasound report is available at obstetric/breech antenatal clinic appointment

6. DOCUMENTATION

- Medical records
- Antenatal Card

7. EDUCATIONAL NOTES

- Identifying fetal presentation and discussing management options with women who have a malpresentation late in pregnancy enables informed planning for the birth¹.
- NHMRC June 2014 recommendation: Suspected non-cephalic presentation after 36 weeks should be confirmed by an ultrasound assessment¹.

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8. RELATED POLICIES / PROCEDURES / CLINICAL PRACTICE LOP

- NSW Health External Cephalic Version GL2017_007
- Breech Presentation at Term – Antenatal and Intrapartum Management

9. RISK RATING

- Low

10. NATIONAL STANDARD

- CC

11. REFERENCES

1. NSW Health Towards Normal Birth PD 2010_045
https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/PD2010_045.pdf
2. NSW Health Supporting Women Planning a Breech Vaginal Birth GL2017_008
https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/GL2017_008.pdf
3. Nassar N et al Diagnostic accuracy of clinical examination for detection of non-cephalic presentation in late pregnancy: a cross sectional analytic study. BMJ 2006; 333: 570-580 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16891327>
4. Wastlund D et al (2019) Screening for breech presentation using universal late-pregnancy ultrasonography: A prospective cohort study and cost effectiveness analysis. PLoS Medicine April 16th 2019
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30990808>

REVISION & APPROVAL HISTORY
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