

Guidelines for scanning of live subjects for teaching purposes

This statement has been developed and reviewed by the Women's Health Committee and approved by the RANZCOG Board and Council.

This policy has been based on the Australian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM) Policy B4, Scanning of Live Subjects for Teaching Purposes (1995 – 2007). The use of this policy by RANZCOG, with amendments, was approved by the ASUM Council in July 2009.

A list of the Women's Health Committee Members can be found in Appendix B.

Disclaimer This information is intended to provide general advice to practitioners and should not be relied upon as a substitute for proper assessment with respect to the particular circumstances of each case and the needs of any patient. This document reflects emerging clinical and scientific advances as of the date issued and is subject to change. The document has been prepared having regard to general circumstances.

First endorsed by RANZCOG: November 2011

Current: November 2022

Review due: November 2027

Objective: To provide advice on the scanning of live subjects for teaching purposes.

Background: This statement was first developed by the Women's Health Committee in November 2011 and most recently reviewed in November 2022.

Funding: The development and review of this statement was funded by RANZCOG.

Overview

Scanning of live subjects for teaching purposes at RANZCOG meetings is approved in the following situations:

1. A workshop where a suitably qualified practitioner is teaching and supervises participants involved in the hands-on scanning.
2. A one-to-one situation with a suitably qualified practitioner demonstrating to an audience, either directly or via interactive video link-up.

The following guidelines must be considered and applied, where relevant:

Required Elements

- Informed consent (guardian consent in the case of minors), in writing, must be obtained. Subjects must be familiarised with the entire process and an assessment made of the subject's understanding of their relevant medical condition.
- The subject must be aware that the primary purpose of the scan is for teaching only and will not be used for clinical purposes.
- The identity of the subject must be confidential.
- Debate regarding the subject's treatment/care should not be conducted in the subject's hearing or presence.
- In all situations, the medical practitioner responsible for recruiting the subject must ensure that it is safe for the person to be scanned in a teaching situation and must remain responsible for their care.
- Identify, record and act accordingly with regards to any patient allergies (e.g. alternates for Latex gloves, ultrasound gel, etc.)

Recommended Elements

- All subjects should be fully evaluated by the demonstrator prior to the commencement of the scanning session.
- Steps should be taken to ensure the subject's rights and needs are respected and met.
- Demonstrators should be given adequate opportunity to familiarise themselves with basic equipment functions prior to the commencement of the scanning session.
- In the obstetric setting, the ultrasound exposure should be conducted in accordance with the principle, 'As Low As Reasonably Achievable' and not extended beyond what is necessary for the purposes of the demonstration.
- All persons involved in the session, including the audience should be made aware of these guidelines.

Other suggested reading

ASUM Guidelines, Policies and Statements – Scanning of Live Subjects for Teaching Purposes During ASUM Events

<https://www.asum.com.au/standards-of-practice/education-and-research-grants/>

A sample RANZCOG consent form can be found in Appendix A.

Links to other College statements

(C-Gen 15) Evidence-based Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology

<https://ranzcog.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Evidence-based-Medicine-Obstetrics-and-Gynaecology.pdf>

(C-Gen 02a) Consent and provision of information to patients in Australia regarding proposed treatment

<https://ranzcog.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Consent-and-provision-of-information-to-patients-in-Australia-regarding-proposed-treatment.pdf>

(C-Gen 02b) Consent and provision of information to patients in New Zealand regarding proposed treatment

<https://ranzcog.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Consent-and-Provision-of-Information-to-Patients-in-New-Zealand-Regarding-Proposed-Treatment.pdf>

Appendices

Appendix A Consent form

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Obstetric Ultrasound Training for Registrars

SITE: xxx

FULL PROJECT TITLE: xxx

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) is organising a one-day obstetric ultrasound workshop for registrars and Obstetricians.

The use of real patients (such as you) enables these training obstetricians to identify normal anatomy in pregnant women and examine normal babies at different gestational ages.

The aim of the workshop is to teach these doctors the core knowledge and skills required to become proficient in pregnancy ultrasound scanning. They can then use this information to practise their technique and become competent. Ultrasound scanning is an essential component of the curriculum but there is often limited access to formal tuition therefore you are assisting by providing this opportunity.

Please read the following instructions prior to your participation. It is essential that you consent to the process.

Yours sincerely,

EVENT ORGANISER

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Please read the attached Participant Information Sheet.
2. Ask your doctor any questions you may have about the activity.
3. Fill in your details on the 'Participant Consent Form'.
4. Any changes should be discussed as soon as possible with xxx

ON THE DAY:

1. Please arrive 15 minutes before your allocated time.
2. Bring the consent form with you on the day. You can sign this form when you arrive and a member of RANZCOG staff will also sign your consent form as a witness. Don't worry if you forget your form, we will have plenty of spare copies.
3. RANZCOG staff will then keep your form for our records.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Obstetric Ultrasound Training for Registrars

This Information and Consent Form is three pages long. Please ensure you have all the pages.

1. YOUR CONSENT

You are invited to take part in this activity for RANZCOG doctors training in obstetrics. This leaflet contains detailed information about this training activity. Its purpose is to explain to you all the procedures involved in the activity before you decide whether or not to take part. Please read this Participant Information carefully. Feel free to ask questions about any information in the document with your doctor. If you agree to take part, sign the Consent Form on page 3. By signing the Consent Form, you indicate that you understand the information and that you give your consent to participate in this training activity. You will be sent a copy of the Participant Information and signed Consent Form to keep as a record.

2. PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND

The aim of the workshop is to teach trainee doctors the core knowledge and skills required to become proficient in pregnancy ultrasound scanning. The success of this workshop depends on pregnant women volunteering to act as models. Experts in obstetric ultrasound (either specialist obstetricians or ultrasound technicians) will provide 'hands on' training. By observing these experts and practising with 'one on one' teaching, trainees can learn the correct techniques or improve their existing practice to obtain accurate fetal measurements and assess the pregnancy systematically.

This is not a comprehensive ultrasound examination the same as you would have experienced previously and it is not intended to provide you or your doctor with diagnostic information. This activity is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to be, and is not, a medical or clinical service. The doctors will not be providing medical advice and will not be a substitute for the usual medical care, treatment and review, which you should continue to obtain through your doctor.

3. PROCEDURE

Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your booked time at the meeting venue.

- The training event will require you to be available for one hour of scanning.
- During the session you will need to expose your abdomen, so appropriate clothing e.g. loose fitting dress, skirt, pants and T-shirt are all suitable. Sheets will be available at the session for your privacy.
- A gel medium will be applied to your skin and a sound source (transducer) will be placed on your skin to generate an image of your pregnancy and surrounding organs.
- The trainer will take a brief pregnancy history (including any allergies) and demonstrate the correct techniques for abdominal ultrasound on you. Each tutorial group consists of a maximum of four doctors.
- Each of the members of the group will then undertake a short abdominal ultrasound examination (of your abdomen) under the supervision of the trainer
- Discussion will also take place during your session. Please note that sometimes this discussion may highlight technical and clinical aspects of ultrasound in general. This discussion may or may not be related to you or your pregnancy or be specifically about your care.

4. POSSIBLE BENEFITS

We cannot guarantee or promise that you will receive any direct benefits from this training activity, but you will see your fetus during the scanning session and have the opportunity for ultrasound experts to have assessed your pregnancy as a training activity.

5. POSSIBLE RISKS

Medical studies have not demonstrated any adverse effects at the settings used for imaging. In the unlikely case of an emergency in the ultrasound room, we would expect the observers who are qualified doctors to assist in your care.

6. PRIVACY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

Any information obtained in connection with this activity that can identify you, will remain confidential. It will only be disclosed with your permission, except as required by law.

7. FURTHER INFORMATION OR ANY PROBLEMS

If you require further information or if you have any problems concerning this training, you can contact xxx.

8. PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY

Participation in any training activity is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you are not obliged to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the training at any stage.

Your decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your future routine treatment, your relationship with those treating you or your relationship with your hospital.

Before you make your decision, your doctor will be available to answer any questions you have about the training activity. You can ask for any information you want. Sign the Consent Form only after you have had a chance to ask your questions and have received satisfactory answers.

9. ETHICAL GUIDELINES

This activity is covered by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia definition of a 'Quality Assurance' Activity (*When does quality assurance in health care require independent ethical review?* 2003). This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in quality assurance activities or in this case, training to improve the quality of health care.

10. REIMBURSEMENT OF YOUR COSTS

There may be financial costs to you in attending this event.

CONSENT FORM

1. I have read, or have had read to me, the Obstetric Ultrasound Training for RANZCOG Registrars' Participant Information form.
2. I understand the Obstetric Ultrasound Training for Registrars Participant Information.
3. I have had all my questions answered to my satisfaction and understand that I am free to withdraw my consent to participate in this examination at any time.
4. I freely agree to participate in this project according to the conditions in the Participant Information.

PARTICIPANT

Participant's Full Name (printed):

FIRST NAME

SURNAME

Postal Address:

(Please complete this section when you arrive at the workshop)

Participant Signature:

Date:

____ / ____ / ____

Full Name of Witness to Participant's Signature (printed):

FIRST NAME

SURNAME

Signature:

Date:

____ / ____ / ____

NOTE: All parties signing the Consent Form must date their own signature

Appendix B Women's Health Committee Membership

Name	Position on Committee
Associate Professor Stephen Robson	Chair and Board Member
Dr James Harvey	Deputy Chair and Councillor
Associate Professor Anusch Yazdani	Member and Councillor
Associate Professor Ian Pettigrew	Member and Councillor
Dr Ian Page	Member and Councillor
Professor Yee Leung	Member of EAC Committee
Professor Sue Walker	General Member
Dr Lisa Hui	General Member
Dr Joseph Sgroi	General Member
Dr Marilyn Clarke	General Member
Dr Donald Clark	General Member
Associate Professor Janet Vaughan	General Member
Dr Benjamin Bopp	General Member
Associate Professor Kirsten Black	General Member
Dr Jacqueline Boyle	Chair of the ATSIWHC
Dr Martin Byrne	GPOAC representative
Ms Catherine Whitby	Community representative
Ms Sherryn Elworthy	Midwifery representative
Dr Nicola Quirk	Trainee representative

Appendix C Full Disclaimer

This information is intended to provide general advice to practitioners and should not be relied on as a substitute for proper assessment with respect to the particular circumstances of each case and the needs of any patient.

This information has been prepared having regard to general circumstances. It is the responsibility of each practitioner to have regard to the particular circumstances of each case. Clinical management should be responsive to the needs of the individual patient and the particular circumstances of each case.

This information has been prepared having regard to the information available at the time of its preparation, and each practitioner should have regard to relevant information, research or material which may have been published or become available subsequently.

Whilst the College endeavours to ensure that information is accurate and current at the time of preparation, it takes no responsibility for matters arising from changed circumstances or information or material that may have become subsequently available.

Version	Date of Version	Pages revised / Brief Explanation of Revision
v1.1	Nov / 2011	ASUM
v2.1	Nov / 2014	A/Prof Janet Vaughn
v3.1	June / 2022	Training Accreditation Committee/ Updated terminology

Policy Version:	Version 3.1
Policy Owner:	Training and Accreditation Committee
Policy Approved by:	RANZCOG Board
Review of Policy:	November / 2022