

Media Comment – Dating Scans

Wiltshire PCT commissions the Royal United Hospital in Bath to provide routine 20 week antenatal screening.

Last October, the PCT approached the hospital to additionally provide routine 12 week dating scans to all pregnant women Bath, north and west Wiltshire. This means an extra 5000 scans being carried out on behalf of the PCT at the hospital.

A national shortage of trained sonographers means that the hospital does not yet have its full complement of staff needed. However, the RUH is currently training additional sonographers to provide this service.

For the time-being, our maternity staff are clinically assessing all women and offering those considered to be at higher risk a dating scan. All other women are scanned at 20 weeks. We are working with the RUH to recruit staff as quickly as possible so that all women have access to a dating scan at 12 weeks.

There are a number of private healthcare providers in Bath who offer scanning services but these private companies are not promoted by our staff.