

GUNDERSEN HEALTH SYSTEM ULTRASOUND DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

SUBJECT: Ultrasound of the Female Pelvis
SECTION: Gyn Ultrasound
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APPROVED BY:

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Prep:

The urinary bladder should be empty for **transvaginal pelvic sonograms, which is the preferred method of evaluation in this department.** On occasion a transabdominal approach may be necessary **in addition** to the transvaginal approach, such as when not seeing all pelvic structures well transvaginally. Younger female patients may need to have their sonogram performed via the full bladder transabdominal approach rather than transvaginally. It is **NOT** necessary to also perform a pelvic sonogram transabdominally when all structures are well seen transvaginally.

Imaging Protocol:

The following images represent the **complete** female pelvic ultrasound exam. Additional images may be necessary for proper documentation.

- Longitudinal image of the uterus measuring the length from the fundus to the cervix and the depth from the anterior to the posterior wall (A-P measurement should be obtained perpendicular to the measurement of the length)
- Transverse image of the uterus with the maximum width measured
- Longitudinal image of the cervix
- The thickness of the endometrium is measured in the longitudinal plane at the thickest portion. If fluid is seen within the endometrial cavity then the two layers of the endometrium are measured and added together to determine the thickness. Do not include the fluid in the measurement.
- Color image of the endometrium
- Cine sweep through the long uterus
- Cine sweep through the trans uterus
- Longitudinal image of the right ovary with measurements of the length and A-P diameter
- Transverse image of the right ovary with the width measured
- Color and/or power Doppler of the right ovary demonstrating blood flow within the right ovary

- Cine sweep through the right ovary
- Longitudinal image of the left ovary with measurements of the length and A-P diameter
- Transverse image of the left ovary with the width measured
- Color and/or power Doppler of the left ovary demonstrating blood flow with the left ovary
- Cine sweep through the left ovary
- Longitudinal image of the posterior uterine cul-de-sac

If ovaries cannot be seen transvaginally a transabdominal attempt is necessary.

Document the right and left adnexa if unable to visualize the ovaries. Adjust the order to reflect the additional images.

Follow up pelvic sonograms performed within 3 months of the original pelvic sonogram may be targeted to a specific structure only. For billing purposes per department protocol only the specific structure will be imaged if the follow-up exam is within 3 months of the initial sonogram, although all the pelvic organs will be evaluated.

Fluid enhanced pelvic sonograms will include the images for a complete pelvic sonogram. If possible, a 3D ultrasound probe should be used for these scans. Once the uterine cavity is filled with fluid a complete survey of the cavity is performed with representative images obtained for documentation of normal or abnormal findings. Images of the uterine cavity should be obtained in both longitudinal and transverse planes. The provider may ask for a 3D ultrasound sweep of the uterus.

WORKFLOW FOR Pelvic U/S Studies if IUD in place

- Perform a 3D ultrasound sweep for *all patients with IUD in place* during a CLINIC pelvic ultrasound study that is to be read by an OB/GYN physician (including outreach ultrasound if 3D probe is available).
- The sonographer completes the rendering process once the patient is off the ultrasound table.
- The physician reviews the 3D images prior to signing the ultrasound report.

****We will NOT do a 3D ultrasound sweep for pelvic sonograms performed on Emergency Services patients as there is currently no 3D probe in the radiology imaging department where these exams are performed****