

Mrs Donna Kirwan RGN. RM. PGCert.DU. MPhil
National Projects Officer

NHS Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme

National Programme Centre
National Screening Committee
Innovation Centre
Rennes Drive
University of Exeter
Exeter
EX4 4RN

Tel: 01392 262396

E-Mail: Donna.Kirwan@ansnsc.co.uk

PA: jackiewilliams@ansnsc.co.uk

www.fetalanomaly.screening.nhs.uk/

Date: 06 March 2009

Re: National consultation: 18⁺⁰-20⁺⁶ weeks' fetal anomaly screening scan 'draft' ultrasound standards

The work of the *NHS Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme (FASP)* for England is to implement, on behalf of the Department of Health (DH) a national screening programme which adheres to equity of access providing uniformity of care for pregnant women.

Part of the remit of the FASP is to develop a suite of national ultrasound standards to underpin the service provided to pregnant women who choose to have the 18⁺⁰-20⁺⁶ weeks' fetal anomaly screening scan.

I am delighted to tell you that over the past nine months the FASP has been working with experts in the field of ultrasound, radiology, obstetrics and fetal medicine to develop a suite of standards for healthcare professionals offering and providing ultrasound in their practice.

We recognise that it is important to validate the standards through a robust process, and for this reason two consultations were held in November and December 2008. A wealth of helpful comments were received which were reviewed and integrated into the draft standards document. However, given the importance of this work, we have agreed to a final consultation so that individuals can comment again.

In addition to the draft standards, we would also value your views on our draft ultrasound 'soft marker' screening policy/statement, which we intend to embed in the ultrasound standards publication. It would also be helpful if you could circulate the information to your colleagues for their feedback.

Please find enclosed with this letter a copy of the:

1. 18⁺⁰-20⁺⁶ weeks' fetal anomaly screening scan consultation brief
2. Draft ultrasound standards (version 5d)
3. Draft ultrasound soft marker policy/statement
4. National ultrasound standards/soft marker screening policy national consultation feedback form

If you wish to return any comments, we prefer you complete the form electronically and send it by email to my PA Jackie Williams at Jackie.williams@ansnsc.co.uk.

Alternatively, you may complete the form in writing but please ensure that your writing is legible. If you intend to do this, you can either return the form by Royal Mail to the above address or fax it to the following number:
[01392 262 318](tel:01392262318)

FORMS MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN MONDAY, 6TH APRIL.

Your feedback is important and will be treated in the strictest of confidence. All responses received will be reviewed by the NHS FASP National Ultrasound Standards Core Reference Group (NUSCoRG).

For any other queries about the consultation or about any of our screening programmes, please contact the Programme Centre on the above number.

Yours sincerely



Donna Kirwan

National Projects Officer, NHS Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme
Project Lead - National Ultrasound Standards Core Reference Group