

Guidelines for First Trimester Ultrasound during COVID-19 Pandemic

These guidelines have been developed through consultation with Diagnostic Imaging (DI) and the Fetal Assessment and Treatment Centre (FATC) at the IWK Health Centre. The goal is to provide optimal prenatal care while balancing the impact of hospital visits on the health of the public and our staff.

First Trimester Ultrasound

1. For any patient who qualifies for Early Pregnancy Review (EPR) in FATC and LMP certain/reliable, this visit will serve as the dating ultrasound. Requests can be sent directly to FATC; no need to request a dating US from DI.
2. Any early pregnancy complications such as bleeding, possible ectopic pregnancy, abnormal pattern of beta hCG, etc. will continue to be seen in DI. Please send the US request with pertinent history and current beta hCG level directly to DI.
3. Any patient with uncertain dating by LMP will continue to be seen in DI, including those who qualify for EPR. Please send the US request with pertinent history and current beta hCG level directly to DI.

Due to the pandemic, a first trimester dating ultrasound is not required in the following scenarios:

- LMP certain/reliable and no identified risk factors or complications.
- If conception date is known and no identified risk factors or complications.
- If IVF pregnancy, then the EPR will serve as the dating US.
- Clinicians with additional questions or concerns are welcome to contact the DI Department or FATC.

Due to the nature of the pandemic response, these guidelines may change to reflect department capacity and staff availability. Updates will be provided as necessary.