



Choosing a service to carry out scans of you and your baby

November 2022



Easy read version of 'Choosing a baby scanning service' webpage



Ultrasound scans are important for checking the health of you and your baby.



Ultrasound scans can take a picture inside people's bodies, to check a baby is healthy before it is born.



There are different types of services that do ultrasound scans.



This easy read tells you what each type offers.

Check the service is on our list



Baby scan services must be on our list before they can carry out ultrasound scans.



Look for the service using the search box on our website at www.cqc.org.uk/care-services or call us on 03000 616161.



If the service is not on our list they may be carrying out their service illegally.



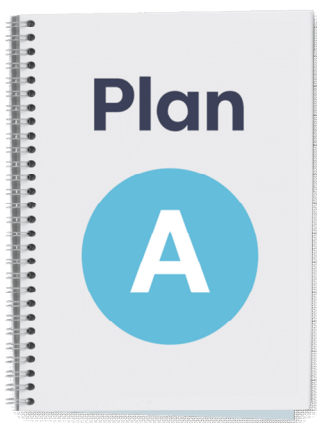
Types of scanning service



Private services doing baby ultrasound scans usually offer **diagnostic scans** or **souvenir scans** or both.



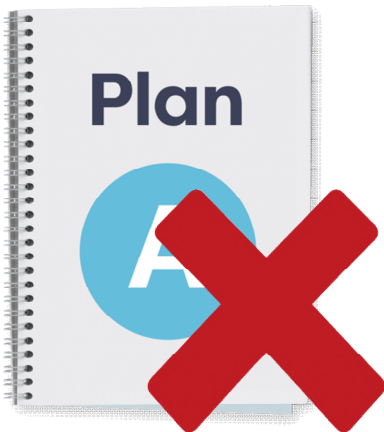
Diagnostic scans check the health of you and your baby.



You should have diagnostic scans to make sure your pregnancy is going to plan and that your baby looks normal for its age.



Souvenir scans record pictures or videos of your baby to keep for memories, like you might keep a family photo album.



Souvenir scans do not check the health of you and your baby or check to see if there are any problems.

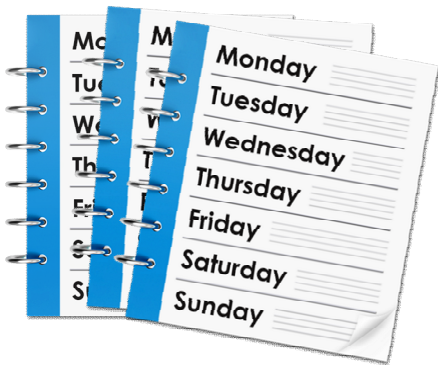


If you are thinking about having a souvenir scan, it might be helpful to talk it through with your GP, midwife or doctor.

Whatever you decide, you still need to have your usual pregnancy scans



You should have these diagnostic scans with your NHS hospital when you have been pregnant for between:



- 11 to 14 weeks

AND



- 18 to 21 weeks



Your doctor, nurse, midwife or another healthcare professional may also recommend scans at other times.

Find out more



Before you decide what service to use, you can ask what training the person who is carrying out your ultrasound scan has had and if they are on a list (called a register).



You can also ask the service you are thinking of using if they have information you can read before you have the scan.



The NHS also has information about ultrasound scans on their website at:

www.nhs.uk/pregnancy/your-pregnancy-care/ultrasound-scans