

Ref. No: 2467  
Date: 26/03/26  
Subject: Imaging of Patients Under 18 in Adult Ultrasound Services

## REQUEST & RESPONSE

### 1. Definition of a Child in Practice

- Does the Trust define patients aged 16–17 as children or adults for the purposes of ultrasound service provision and clinical governance?

***The Trust defines patients aged 16 and 17 as children for any attendance / admission to the Trust, this definition is clear within the Safeguarding Children Policy and is included within the Safeguarding Children intranet page accessible by all staff***

#### 1. Policy Basis (if applicable)

- If individuals aged 16–17 are considered adults in this context, please provide:
  - The legislation, national policy, or regulatory basis supporting this position.

***Not Applicable***

### 2. Risk Assessment and Safeguarding Processes

- Where patients under 18 are scheduled within adult ultrasound clinics:
  - Does the Trust undertake any form of risk assessment or safeguarding review?

***A safeguarding review/ risk assessment is not undertaken routinely. If there were any concerns regarding risk then the Safeguarding team would be contacted for advice and would support with obtaining additional information about the young person which would inform any additional measures to be considered in order to accommodate the appointment.***

- 3.
- If yes, please provide details of:
    - Who is responsible for completing or contributing to the risk assessment
    - Who reviews and signs off the assessment
    - Whether the findings are shared with the practitioner performing the examination
4. **Practitioner Training and Competence**
- What training, competency framework, or governance processes are in place to ensure that practitioners performing ultrasound examinations on patients under 18 are appropriately trained and competent in paediatric imaging?

***Radiology: From an anatomical perspective, patients aged 16-17 years are treated as adults.***

***In terms of US training, there is no bespoke paediatric ultrasound training for 16–17-year-old patients. Paediatric radiologists and experienced paediatric sonographers are available to provide structured training, support and mentorship to those sonographers requiring it.***

***Paediatric US training is done as part of PgDip.***

5. **Policies and Guidance**
- Please provide copies of, or links to, any local policies, protocols, or guidelines relating to:
    - Imaging of patients under 18 within adult radiology or ultrasound services
    - Safeguarding considerations specific to this context



Safeguarding  
Children policy MWI

***Radiology: There is a draft Radiology policy for imaging of children and young people which has not yet been approved because it is being merged to apply to all MWL sites.***