



# Position statement on the appropriate use of diagnostic ultrasound

---

Position statement of The Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG), the Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM) and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR).

A list of Women's Health Committee Members can be found in [Appendix A](#).

Disclosure statements have been received from all members of this committee.

**Disclaimer** This information is intended to provide general advice to practitioners. This information should not be relied on as a substitute for proper assessment with respect to the particular circumstances of each case and the needs of any patient. This document reflects emerging clinical and scientific advances as of the date issued and is subject to change. The document has been prepared having regard to general circumstances.

**First endorsed by RANZCOG: November 2006**

**Current: March 2015**

**Review due: March 2018**

**Objective:** To provide advice on the appropriate use of diagnostic ultrasound.

**Target audience:** Health professionals providing maternity and gynaecological care, and patients.

**Background:** This statement was first developed by Women's Health Committee in November 2006 and most recently reviewed in March 2015.

**Funding:** The development and review of this statement was funded by RANZCOG.



where the abnormalities are incorrectly diagnosed or doubt regarding normality is created, thereby producing significant patient anxiety.

**(iii) Fetal considerations**

Ensuring that the fetus is not exposed to a source of potential harm where no health benefit exists.

## Useful website links

Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM)

## Appendices

**Appendix A Women's Health Committee Membership**

**Appendix B Overview of the developme**

Members were required to update their information as soon as they become aware of any changes to their interests and there was also a standing agenda item at each meeting where declarations of interest were called for and recorded as part of the meeting minutes.

There were no significant real or perceived conflicts of interest that required management during the process of updating this statement.

*iii. Grading of recommendations*

Each recommendation in this College statement is given an overall grade as per the table below, based on the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Levels of Evidence and Grades of Recommendations for Developers of Guidelines. Where no robust evidence was available but there was sufficient consensus within the Women's Health Committee, consensus-based recommendations were developed or existing ones updated and are identifiable as such. Consensus-based recommendations were agreed to by the entire committee. Good Practice Notes are highlighted throughout and provide practical guidance to facilitate implementation. These were also developed through consensus of the entire committee.

Recommendation category		Description
Evidence-based	A	Body of evidence can be trusted to guide practice
	B	Body of evidence can be trusted to guide practice in most situations
	C	Body of evidence provides some support for recommendation(s) but care should be taken in its application
	D	The body of evidence is weak and the recommendation must be applied with caution
Consensus-based		Recommendation based on clinical opinion and expertise as insufficient evidence available

