

Division of women and children

Customised growth charts and the DESiGN/GAP study

Information for patients

Introduction

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust has started using customised growth charts as part of the DESiGN/GAP Study. This is a study involving 12 London hospitals that aims to improve the detection of small babies in pregnancy.

What does this mean for me?

Before 25 September 2017, midwives and doctors used a clinical assessment and general growth charts to check that your baby was growing well in the third trimester. Now, we can create a unique chart for you, based on information such as your height and weight, previous deliveries and birth weights and your ethnic group. From about 26 weeks onwards, midwives and doctors will plot scan results and measurements using a tape measure on this special chart that is unique to you.

What if I am plotting small with the tape measure?

A plot that is smaller than expected means you will have an ultrasound scan. Most women can be reassured that their babies are actually normal size on ultrasound in spite of the small measurement with a tape measure.

Your midwife or doctor/GP will email the scan request to the hospital and a member of our admin team should phone you the next working day with an appointment. If you do not receive an appointment, please phone the maternity helpline on 020 3312 6135 (open from 09.00 to 17.00) and they will chase this up.

What if I am plotting large?

These charts are designed to detect small babies, so we do not need to scan babies that are plotting large as long as they are following their own normal upwards growth pattern. We do offer a non-urgent ultrasound scan for babies who suddenly plot large when they were previously plotting normally, to check for increased fluid around the baby.

Is waiting a few days for a scan dangerous for my baby? What should I do while waiting?

As long as your baby is moving normally, it is safe to wait a few days for a scan. Please come in via the triage department if you feel baby's movements are reduced. The scan is only one part of assessing your baby's wellbeing and there are other important factors, such as your baby's heartbeat, which we can check in triage.

How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3313 0088** (Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea hospitals), or **020 3312 7777** (St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals). You can also email PALS at **imperial.pals@nhs.net** The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to express your concerns in **writing** to:

Complaints department
Fourth floor
Salton House
St Mary's Hospital
Praed Street
London W2 1NY

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print, as a sound recording, in Braille, or in alternative languages. Please contact the communications team on **020 3312 5592**.

Wi-fi

We have a free wi-fi service for basic filtered browsing and a premium wi-fi service (requiring payment) at each of our five hospitals. Look for WiFiSPARK_FREE or WiFiSPARK_PREMIUM