

Appendix 1

Non-Detection of Fetal Heart Sounds

If a pregnant woman presents for assessment and the fetal heart beat cannot be detected by a sonicaid (at an appropriate gestation) or there is any doubt regarding the presence of the fetal heart beat:

- Notify the Obstetric Registrar
- Transfer the woman to the Maternity Unit if appropriate and not already on ward
- A ward ultrasound should be done and if no fetal heart beat located, then confirmation by radiology department should be sought. Radiology does not need to be called overnight, unless requested by the treating doctor. The ultrasound can be requested in business hours if appropriate.
- Where staffing levels permit, a midwife should accompany the woman to radiology to provide emotional support

If a pregnant woman presents to the Radiology Department for a routine scan and the fetal heart cannot be detected:

Public Patients

- Inform radiologist.
- Radiologist to confirm absent fetal heart sounds.
- Notify the referring Medical Officer
- Page Obstetric Registrar / Obstetrician to see woman immediately.

Private Patients

- Inform radiologist.
- Radiologist to confirm absent fetal heart sounds.
- Notify the referring Obstetrician / Medical Officer.