



University Hospitals Bristol
NHS Foundation Trust

Patient information service
St Michael's Hospital

Fetal medicine unit

Southwell Street, Bristol, BS2 8EG

Telephone 0117 342 5470 or fax 0117 342 5180



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Welcome to the fetal medicine unit

You have been referred to the fetal medicine unit today for a specialist opinion, advice and possibly for further tests.

The fetal medicine specialist will carry out a detailed ultrasound scan in order to examine your baby. They will then discuss the findings and what this may mean with you.

It is preferable that you bring your partner or a relative or close friend with you.

Please also make sure that you bring your hand held notes with you.

How long will my appointment take?

Appointments in the unit take variable lengths of time. We try to tailor our counselling and length of visit according to individual needs. Because of this, it can be difficult to anticipate and plan appointment times.

We are the regional referral unit with specialist facilities. This means that we see patients from all over the South West region, and sometimes further afield, on an outpatient basis. On occasion we will be asked to see emergency cases within 24 hours of referral. This can mean re-prioritising our appointment times on a daily basis.

We appreciate that this is a stressful time for you and your family, but sometimes the time of your consultation may be delayed for the reasons given above. We apologise for this in advance.

Who will be present during my scan?

As we are a major teaching hospital there may be several people present during your consultation.

These include the fetal medicine specialist, senior doctors who are training in fetal medicine, the midwife who is co-ordinating the clinic that day, and occasionally a student doctor or midwives. No more than five people would be in the room, unless in special circumstances, when you would be asked.

Please let us know if you would rather not have extra people present.

What will happen during my visit?

The aim is to provide as much information as possible for you and your referring doctor, and to plan the ongoing management of your pregnancy.

You will be seen by a team of doctors and midwives who have appropriate expertise in fetal medicine.

Specialist tests will be offered if appropriate, with counselling and full explanation of the risks and advantages, so that you can decide whether you wish to have the test.

We will arrange with you when and how you will receive the results.

Scan photography

We are not able to record the scan on DVD for your own personal use.

During your ultrasound scan we do take photographs and electronically stored images to aid with diagnosis, to discuss with other specialists involved in your case, and for audit.

As far as possible, personal details are restricted to maintain privacy and all images are kept on the fetal medicine unit database.

If you do not wish images to be stored during your visit, please inform us.

The future

This department contributes information to the National Congenital Anomaly and Rare Disease Registration Service:

- to help find out about groups of birth abnormalities in the same area
- to help check that the scanning/detection services you receive during pregnancy are working well
- to determine that the necessary facilities are provided in the hospitals and community services caring for expectant mothers
- to answer research questions about specific abnormalities.

Finally...

We hope that your visit to the fetal medicine unit will be helpful and we will endeavour to answer all your questions.

Please ask one of the staff to explain things to you if you are unclear about what has been said or if you are unhappy about anything that has happened during your visit.

Location

The fetal medicine unit is on level E of St Michael's Hospital.

Parking is limited, so please allow time to find a space. There are three pay and display car parks in Southwell Street with meters that only take coin payment; otherwise, there are metered spaces on St Michael's Hill.

Hospital free shuttle bus

There is a free bus service linking central city car parks, the bus station and Broadmead to St Michael's Hospital. This bus runs approximately every 20 minutes Monday to Friday. For more information visit www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/travelling-to-and-from-our-hospitals/

A map showing the location of the hospital is on the opposite page. Please feel free to telephone us if you have difficulties finding us or if you are unable to attend.

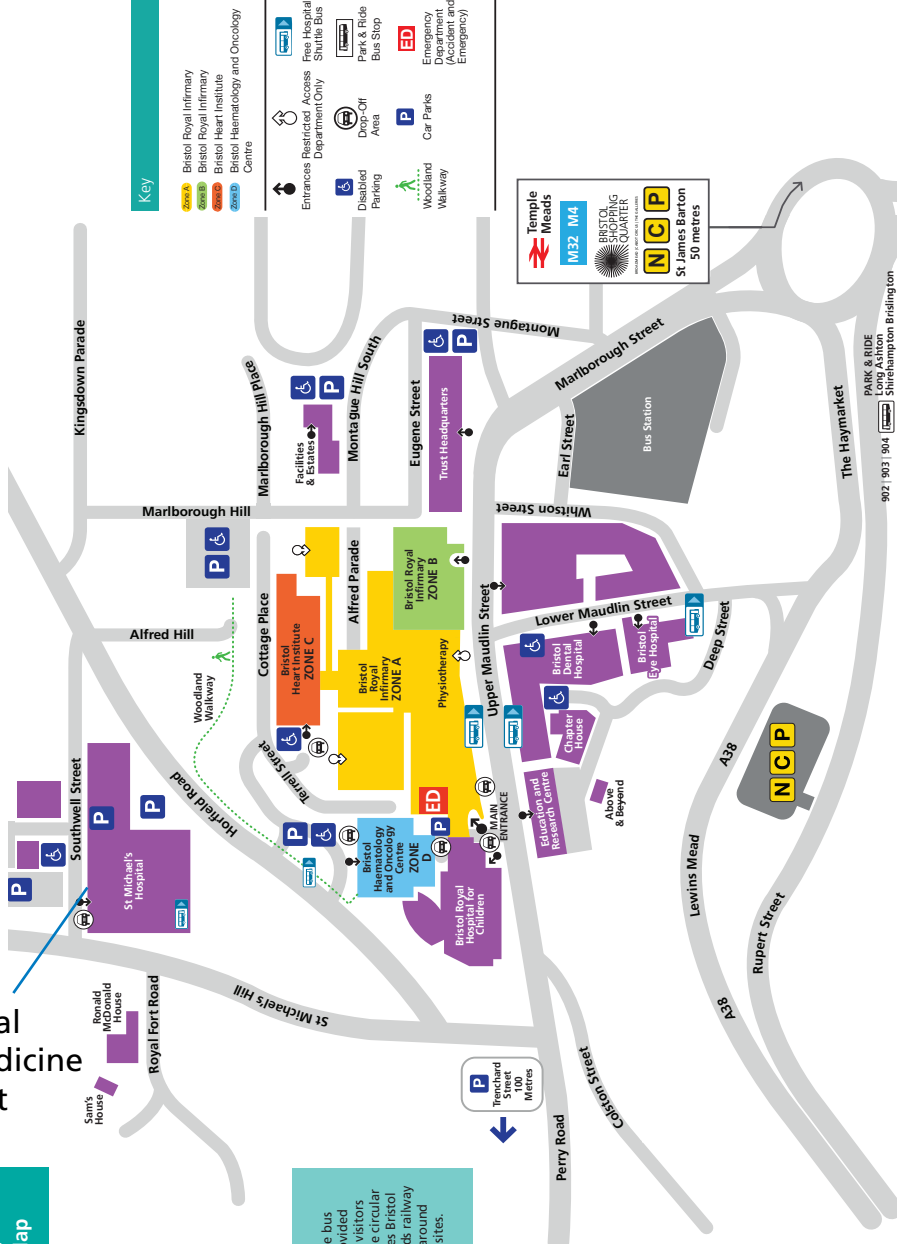
Telephone
0117 342 5470

You can visit our website at:

www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/your-hospitals/st-michaels-hospital/what-we-do/fetal-medicine-unit/

Fetal
medicine
unit

University
Hospitals
Bristol Map



A free shuttle bus service is provided for patients, visitors and staff. The circular route includes Bristol Temple Meads railway station and around our hospital sites.

As well as providing clinical care, our Trust has an important role in research. This allows us to discover new and improved ways of treating patients.

While under our care, you may be invited to take part in research. To find out more please visit:

www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/research-innovation
or call the research and innovation team on
0117 342 0233.

For access to other patient leaflets and information please go to the following address:

www.uhbristol.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/information-for-patients/

Hospital switchboard: 0117 923 0000



Minicom: 0117 934 9869



www.uhbristol.nhs.uk



For an interpreter or signer please contact the telephone number on your appointment letter.



For this leaflet in large print, audio or PDF format, please email patientleaflets@uhbristol.nhs.uk.

