

Ultrasound Diagnostic Services

Ultrasound Diagnostic Services

Inspection report

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This report describes our judgement of the quality of care at this service. It is based on a combination of what we found when we inspected, information from our ongoing monitoring of data about services and information given to us from the provider, patients, the public and other organisations.

Ratings

Overall rating for this location

Are services safe?

Inspected but not rated



Are services effective?

Are services caring?

Are services responsive to people's needs?

Are services well-led?

Inspected but not rated



Summary of findings

Overall summary

This was a focused follow up inspection to investigate whether concerns from our previous inspection on 27 November 2018 had been resolved. We did not rate this service at this inspection. The previous overall rating of requires improvement remains.

At this inspection we found:

- The provider has complied with the Requirement Notice issued in February 2019. The provider had made improvements to ensure that diagnostic imaging department staff had a designated safeguarding lead trained to Level 3. The service also ensured that sonographers had suitable indemnity insurance to cover all of their activities.

Summary of findings

Our judgements about each of the main services

Service	Rating	Summary of each main service
Diagnostic imaging		<p>This was a focused follow up inspection to investigate whether concerns from our previous inspection on 27 November 2018 had been resolved. We did not rate this service at this inspection. The previous overall rating of requires improvement remains.</p> <p>At this inspection we found:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The provider has complied with the Requirement Notice issued in February 2019. The provider had made improvements to ensure that diagnostic imaging department staff had a designated safeguarding lead trained to Level 3. The service also ensured that sonographers had suitable indemnity insurance to cover all of their activities.

Summary of findings

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Summary of this inspection

Background to Ultrasound Diagnostic Services

Ultrasound Diagnostic Services is operated by Ultrasound Diagnostic Services. The service was established in 1977 and has been managed by Ultrasound Diagnostic Services since 2012. The service offers diagnostic tests for adults and young people. Patients are offered ultrasound scans for obstetrics and gynaecology. This included scans at various stages during pregnancy, fetal echocardiography, lower abdominal and pelvic scans and ovarian cancer screening. The service had three diagnostic imaging rooms and a reception area in the basement.

The service was last inspected on 27 November 2018 and a report was published on the 19 February 2019. Following the 2018 inspection, the diagnostic imaging service was rated as requires improvement and was served one Requirement Notice for failing to comply with Health and Social Care Act 2008 (Regulated Activities) Regulations 2014: Regulation 17 Good governance.

How we carried out this inspection

The team that inspected the service comprised a CQC lead inspector. The inspection team was overseen by Nicola Wise, Head of Hospital Inspection.

We undertook an announced inspection of Ultrasound Diagnostic Services on 1 September 2021 using our focused inspection methodology. We inspected only the diagnostic imaging service to see if improvements had been made since our last inspection.

We inspected the service to determine whether the provider was now compliant with the requirements set out in the Requirement Notice issued in February 2019.

We gave staff 48 hours notice that we were coming to inspect, to ensure the provider could accommodate us in line with government COVID-19 guidelines.

During this inspection, the lead inspector met with the registered manager only.

You can find information about how we carry out our inspections on our website: <https://www.cqc.org.uk/what-we-do/how-we-do-our-job/what-we-do-inspection>.



Our findings

Overview of ratings

Our ratings for this location are:

	Safe	Effective	Caring	Responsive	Well-led	Overall
Diagnostic imaging	Inspected but not rated	N/A	N/A	N/A	Inspected but not rated	N/A
Overall	Inspected but not rated	N/A	N/A	N/A	Inspected but not rated	N/A

Diagnostic imaging

Safe	Inspected but not rated 
Effective	
Caring	
Responsive	
Well-led	Inspected but not rated 

Are Diagnostic imaging safe?

Inspected but not rated 

During this inspection we looked at specific aspects of the safe domain. Please see the overall summary for more information.

At the last inspection, the service did not have a designated safeguarding lead that was appropriately trained. At this inspection, we found that the service was now fully compliant with the requirements to have a designated safeguarding lead who was trained to level three in safeguarding children.

At the last inspection in 2018, we found that there was no designated safeguarding lead trained to level three in safeguarding children, working in the service. At this inspection, we were shown evidence of a certificate where the Registered Manager had completed their Designated Safeguarding Lead (Level 3) training on 5 July 2021. The recommended date for renewal for this training for the Registered Manager was 5 July 2023.

Are Diagnostic imaging well-led?

Inspected but not rated 

During this inspection we looked at specific aspects of the well-led domain. Please see the overall summary for more information.

At the last inspection in 2018, not all sonographers within the service had professional indemnity insurance. At this inspection, we found that the service had record of its sonographers having the suitable professional indemnity insurance.

The practice manager told us at the last inspection that sonographers were having difficulty sourcing suitable professional indemnity insurance. Independent sonographers are required to have suitable professional indemnity in place, so they are protected if a medical negligence claim is made against them. Patients using an independent sonographer have an expectation that professional indemnity cover is in place, should they need to make a claim. At this inspection, we saw evidence of indemnity insurance for six sonographers and doctors. The indemnity insurance certificates included information such as, the issue and renewal dates of membership, membership numbers and indemnity limit.