

19 August 2009

Dear Colleague,

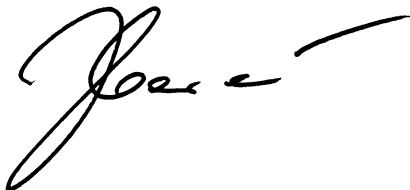
Plotting ultrasound measurements from growth scans

At the Regional Ultrasound Group meeting in May, a number of cases were presented from confidential enquiries into stillbirths, where the ultrasound generated estimated fetal weight (EFW) was not plotted on the customised growth charts. This was considered by the professional review panels to represent suboptimal care. The babies subsequently died in utero without further monitoring having been instigated for fetal growth. In two examples, the individual biometric parameters were plotted and seemed reassuring, but in fact hid the presence of growth restriction which would have become evident if the EFW had been plotted. In part, this was because individual biometry measurements cannot be customised.

We agreed to circulate to all stakeholders the recommendation that the emphasis of recording growth scans in the hand held pregnancy notes should be on **plotting the EFW on the customised chart**. Measurements of the individual parameters can be recorded within the Green Notes as well. However a full ultrasound report with plots of scan parameters should not be appended to the hand held notes, as it may be inconsistent with the customised EFW chart, and potentially confusing to clinicians.

This recommendation should not effect your current policies and guidelines, but please let either of us know if there are any problems with instituting this as a standard manner of reporting growth scans.

Yours sincerely,



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