

# OBSTETRIC & NUCHAL TRANSLUCENCY ULTRASOUND

## Medicare Eligibility Guidelines

**NORTH COAST**  
Radiology Group

The Government uses rules to determine if patients are eligible for rebates offered by Medicare and the Department of Veterans Affairs. To be eligible for such rebates, patients must meet one of the following criteria, and such criteria must be indicated on the referral.

### OBSTETRIC ULTRASOUND

Pregnancy Scans are subject to Medicare Eligibility Criteria to qualify for a Medicare rebate:

0 – 12 Weeks – Due to the need to know dates, all patients are eligible for a ultrasound during this period and receive a Medicare rebate

12 – 16 Weeks – For a scan during this time, there needs to be a medical reason such as query dates, bleeding or diminished symptoms of pregnancy. See the detailed list below for more examples.

17 Weeks + – Everyone is entitled to one Morphology Ultrasound. This is preferably performed around 20 weeks to maximise visualisation of fetal anatomy. If more than one ultrasound is required between 17 and 22 weeks, the referral must be referred by an Obstetrics and Gynaecology specialist or a GP with a Diploma in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The referral must also have clinical reason from those listed below for the patient to receive a Medicare rebate.

22 Weeks + – Requires a clinical reason such as those listed below. If more than one scan is required after 22 weeks, the referral must be referred by an Obstetrics & Gynaecology specialist or a GP with a Diploma in Obstetrics & Gynaecology. The referral also requires a clinical reason such as those listed below for the patient to receive a Medicare rebate.

- (i) hyperemesis gravidarum;
- (ii) diabetes mellitus;
- (iii) hypertension;
- (iv) toxemia of pregnancy;
- (v) liver or renal disease;
- (vi) autoimmune disease;
- (vii) cardiac disease;
- (viii) alloimmunisation;
- (ix) maternal infection;
- (x) inflammatory bowel disease;
- (xi) bowel stoma;
- (xii) abdominal wall scarring;
- (xiii) previous spinal or pelvic trauma or disease;
- (xiv) drug dependency;
- (xv) thrombophilia;
- (xvi) significant maternal obesity;
- (xvii) advanced maternal age;
- (xviii) abdominal pain or mass;
- (xix) uncertain dates;
- (xx) high risk pregnancy;
- (xxi) previous post dates delivery;
- (xxii) previous caesarean section;
- (xxiii) poor obstetric history;
- (xxiv) suspicion of ectopic pregnancy;
- (xxv) risk of miscarriage;
- (xxvi) diminished symptoms of pregnancy;
- (xxvii) suspected or known cervical incompetence;
- (xxviii) suspected or known uterine abnormality;
- (xxix) pregnancy after assisted reproduction;
- (xxx) risk of fetal abnormality (R)

### NUCHAL TRANSLUCENCY

#### Required details

1. The patient is 11.5 to 13.5 weeks of gestation, and referred by a medical practitioner; and
2. For the patient to receive a MBS rebate, one or more of the following conditions are present:

- **Abdominal pain** or mass
- Abdominal wall scarring
- **Advanced maternal age**
- Alloimmunisation
- Autoimmune disease
- Bowel stoma
- Cardiac disease
- Diabetes Mellitus
- Diminished symptoms of pregnancy
- Drug dependency
- **High risk pregnancy**
- Hyperemesis gravidarum
- Hypertension
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Liver or renal disease
- Maternal infection
- **Poor obstetric history**
- **Pregnancy after assisted reproduction**
- **Previous caesarean section**
- **Previous post dates delivery**
- Previous spinal or pelvic trauma or disease
- Risk of fetal abnormality
- **Risk of miscarriage**
- **Significant maternal obesity**
- Suspected or known cervical incompetence
- Suspected or known uterine abnormality
- Suspicion of ectopic pregnancy
- Thrombophilia
- Toxaemia of pregnancy
- **Uncertain dates**

To assess fetal risk the examination **MUST** be performed between 11.5 to 13.5 weeks of pregnancy. Due to this narrow time frame it is essential that patients make an appointment as soon as they receive the referral from their medical practitioner. The associated blood test may be completed any time after 10 weeks and preferably 3 days before the ultrasound

### SERVICE AVAILABILITY

CHATSWOOD & RYDE RADIOLOGY	CLARENCE VALLEY IMAGING	NORTH COAST RADIOLOGY
Chatswood Ryde	Grafton Maclean	Ballina, Byron Bay, Casino, Goonellabah, Women's Imaging Lismore and St Vincent's Lismore