

## Solomon, Carolyn HLTH:EX

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**Subject:** Information booklet for patients on obstetrical ultrasound and fetal sex determination  
**Location:** Joan's office?  
**Start:** Fri 2012-09-07 1:30 PM  
**End:** Fri 2012-09-07 2:00 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative  
**Recurrence:** (none)  
**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded  
**Organizer:** Eaton, Kirk E HLTH:EX  
**Required Attendees:** Geber, Joan HLTH:EX; Solomon, Carolyn HLTH:EX

Moving meeting to 1:30pm.

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If this timing does not work for you, please propose an alternative time.  
Attachments below.

### Kirk Eaton

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### Attachments:

1. Existing policy on Fetal Sex Determination by Ultrasound



Fetal Sex  
etermination by UI

2. Proposed new policy on Fetal Sex Determination by Ultrasound



Fetal Sex  
etermination by UI

### 3. Perinatal Services BC Standards for Obstetrical Ultrasound Examination (incl. Sonographer Worksheet)



Ultrasound  
ssessments Final3.Worksheet V3.pdf



Sonographer



## MINISTRY OF HEALTH

# POLICY COMMUNIQUÉ

# COMMUNIQUÉ

TO: Health Authorities' CEOs

TRANSMITTAL DATE: June 12, 2012

COMMUNIQUÉ 2012-08  
NUMBER:

CLIFF NUMBER: 929416

SUBJECT: Fetal Sex Determination by Ultrasound

DETAILS: N/A

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 30, 2012

MINISTRY CONTACT: Executive Director, Hospital and Provincial Services Branch

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Graham Whitmarsh  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Health

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH POLICY**  
**FETAL SEX DETERMINATION BY ULTRASOUND**

**POLICY OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this policy is to achieve:

- consistency in approach across health authorities to fetal sex determination by ultrasound and disclosure of fetal sex information to patients;
- alignment with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia's Guideline on Disclosure of Fetal Sex; and,
- alignment with Canadian clinical practice guidelines.

**SCOPE**

This policy applies to obstetrical ultrasound services provided by the regional health authorities and the Provincial Health Services Authority.

**POLICY**

**1. In the medical imaging department:**

- a. At the time of a routine full fetal anatomical assessment, the patient will be asked if she wishes to know the sex of the fetus and the patient's decision will be documented by the ultrasound technologist in a consistent manner.
- b. The ultrasound technologist will explain that she is not to release any information about the examination directly to the patient, but that findings will be reported and may be obtained from the referring physician.
- c. The ultrasound technologist will explain that there is a small chance of error in ultrasound sex determination.
- d. A reasonable attempt will be made by the ultrasound technologist to assess fetal genitalia, but exam time will not be extended for the sole purpose of determining fetal sex.
- e. The sex of the fetus will be recorded as "male", "female" or "not determined" in the ultrasound technologist's notes.
- f. Repeat exams will not be scheduled for the sole purpose of determining fetal sex.

**2. In the radiologist's report:**

- a. The report should document whether the patient wishes to know the sex of the fetus.
- b. The report should identify the sex of the fetus, if determined during the exam.

**3. In the physician's office:**

- a. The patient may request fetal sex information from her referring physician.
- b. The referring physician should provide this information to the patient upon request and without delay (i.e., do not withhold this information until later in the pregnancy).

**REVIEW**

This policy is subject to review by December 31, 2014.

**PROPOSED NEW VERSION  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH POLICY  
FETAL SEX DETERMINATION BY ULTRASOUND**

**POLICY OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this policy is to achieve:

- consistency in approach across health authorities to fetal sex determination by ultrasound and disclosure of fetal sex information to patients;
- alignment with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia's Guideline on Disclosure of Fetal Sex; and,
- alignment with Canadian clinical practice guidelines.

**SCOPE**

This policy applies to obstetrical ultrasound services provided by the regional health authorities and the Provincial Health Services Authority.

**POLICY**

1. At the time of a routine full fetal anatomical assessment, a reasonable attempt will be made by the practitioner performing the ultrasound assessment to assess fetal genitalia within the allotted exam time.
2. The allotted exam time will not be extended for the sole purpose of determining fetal sex and repeat exams will not be scheduled for the sole purpose of determining fetal sex.
3. The sex of the fetus will be recorded as "male", "female" or "not determined" in the notes taken during the ultrasound assessment.
4. The practitioner performing the ultrasound assessment is not to release any information about the sex of the fetus directly to the patient.
5. The sex of the fetus (probably male, probably female, or not determined) shall be on the final report that is issued to the referring practitioner.
6. The patient may request fetal sex information from her referring practitioner.

**REVIEW**

This policy is subject to review by December 31, 2014.