

**US SCAN PROTOCOL FOR EXTENDED SCOPE PRACTITIONERS
(Physiotherapists/Podiatrists) Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust**

Key Document code:	WAHT-TP-011	
Key Documents Owner/Lead:	Kate Harris	Physiotherapy & Orthotics Manager
Approved by:	Therapies Clinical Governance Approval Group/ DMB	
Date of Approval:	16 th May 2023	
Date of review:	16 th May 2026 This is the most current document and should be used until a revised version is in place	

Key Amendments

Date	Amendments	Approved by:
25 th January 2023	Document extended to 30 th June 2023 whilst under review.	Dr J Trevelyan/ Benjamin Thomas
16 th May 2026	Document re-approved for 3 years	Therapies Clinical Governance Approval Group/ DMB

Key Amendments

Date	Amendment	Approved by
16 th December 2022	Removal of hip, knee, foot & ankle to reflect agreed P37 section Radiology WAHT-KD-024. Updated wording in first paragraph, second line from 'It is a new US..' to 'It is an US..'. Existing pathway, no longer new. Approved by Julia Rhodes Quality /Governance Lead Radiographer Governance via email 16/01/2023	Therapies Clinical Governance Approval Group/ DMB

This protocol lists the US Scan referral criteria to be used by the specified health professionals in appendix A. It is an US Scan referral pathway agreed with Radiology and for use by all ESPs working in WAHT. It is anticipated that the US Scan request rates will NOT increase, what will change is the signature on the individual referral forms.

Investigation	Indication
Shoulder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical history of recent trauma and clinical evidence of rotator cuff rupture Acute on chronic rotator cuff pathology Shoulder impingement pain that HAS NOT IMPROVED with conservative treatment, and NO evidence of subacromial sclerosis on x-ray Suspect biceps tendinopathy X-ray evidence of sub-acromial sclerosis and suspected cuff tear clinically <p>US scan is indicated as the preferable investigation when considering examining the rotator cuff tendons for tendinopathy, tears or dynamic impingement (Royal College of Radiology Referral Guidelines 2007). Evidence</p>

	suggests that US scanning has good sensitivity and specificity for detecting tears, is better at detecting full thickness tears rather than partial thickness tears (Al-Shawi et al 2008) and is probably the most cost-effective investigation for detecting rotator cuff tears (de Jesus et al 2009).
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Appendix A

Competencies required

- HPC registered Chartered Physiotherapist or Podiatrist employed by Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust working within an extended scope role.
- Completion or working towards recognised professional qualification in assessment and treatment of musculoskeletal conditions.
- Completion of radiation protection course.