



# Have you 'paused and checked'?

## Practitioner Checklist for Ultrasound Examinations

<b>P</b>	<b>Patient</b>	<p>Confirm patient ID. <b>Always use unique identifiers</b></p> <p>Check that the examination is justified</p> <p>Check examination history for other relevant recent imaging studies</p> <p>Check available notes and referral documentation</p> <p>Discuss clinical history and context with patient as appropriate</p> <p>Confirm the patient expected the examination, understands and has consented</p> <p>Consider chaperone requirements</p>
<b>A</b>	<b>Anatomy</b>	<p>Plan the examination so as to address the clinical question.</p> <p>Be prepared to amend and extend the examination as necessary.</p>
<b>U</b>	<b>User checks</b>	<p>Confirm the correct modality</p> <p>Provide clear information and instructions to all involved</p>
<b>S</b>	<b>Systems &amp; Settings</b>	<p>Select correct patient (unique ID)</p> <p>Confirm correct exam date/time are displayed</p> <p>Select correct pre-set for the examination, adjusting imaging parameters as necessary</p> <p>Select appropriate transducer</p> <p>Prepare equipment as necessary</p> <p>Start with as low a power setting as possible</p>
<b>E</b>	<b>Exposure</b>	<p>Follow British Medical Ultrasound Society safety guidelines<sup>1</sup></p> <p>Monitor displayed thermal and mechanical indices</p>
<b>D</b>	<b>Draw to a close</b>	<p>Add image annotation and comments as appropriate to stored images</p> <p>Report the examination</p> <p>Complete all computer records as per department protocol</p> <p>Confirm PACS images selected and stored</p> <p>Inform patient of results appropriate to findings, situation and local guidelines</p> <p>Inform the patient where to go to obtain results relevant to referral source.</p> <p>Inform referrer of any urgent or significant findings</p>

Reference 1: <https://www.bmus.org/policies-statements-guidelines/safety-statements/>

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