



## CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE

# Referral to the Maternal Fetal Assessment Unit (MFAU) (ambulatory care only)

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#)

## Purpose

To provide a standardised process to refer a woman to the Maternal Fetal Assessment Unit (MFAU) for assessment:

- To allow a pregnancy to be monitored outside normal clinic appointments.
- To detect any abnormalities that may arise between antenatal clinic appointments.
- To identify complications of pregnancy and initiate a change in management.

## Procedure

### Decision to refer to MFAU for assessment

- The decision to refer a woman to the maternal fetal assessment unit should be made in conjunction with the treating obstetric team.
- If the woman is being managed by a midwifery- led clinic, the clinic midwife shall provide a clinical handover to a doctor **before** sending the woman to MFAU. The doctor will be responsible for reviewing the woman after assessment to establish a clear plan. In hours- team doctor, after hours- MFAU doctor.

### Documentation of the assessment plan

- After discussion with the reviewing doctor, a clear assessment plan shall be documented on the MFAU attendance sticker in an iSoBAR format
- The sticker will be placed in the outpatient ANC records (MR223).
- The plan will include:
  - Name of the referrer.
  - Nature of assessment required in MFAU.
  - The proposed management plan following assessment which may include:
    - a. Discharge criteria if maternal and fetal wellbeing is confirmed, and/or
    - b. Admission criteria depending upon outcome of assessment, and
    - c. Named reviewer (or team to contact) if clinical concerns become apparent during the assessment.
    - d. Details outlining follow up plan, including continued assessments in MFAU if indicated and next ANC appointment.

- A new MFAU assessment plan sticker shall be completed at any time a change in management has occurred.

## **Arranging a MFAU assessment**

### **Same day assessment**

- If the woman is to attend MFAU for a review on the same day **after the ANC has occurred**, the sticker must be completed as above.
- The MFAU co-ordinator shall be contacted on extension # 82199 or # 82134 and advised that the woman is attending for assessment.
- If referring clinician is not able to review the woman after the MFAU assessment, an alternative clinician must be identified, provided with verbal clinical handover and the name of the reviewing clinician documented on the MFAU assessment sticker.

### **Future assessment**

- If the woman is to attend MFAU on a future date the sticker shall be completed and placed in the outpatient record MR223. The sticker shall identify the date or dates of assessment and the named doctor who is to be contacted as necessary.
- For women who require regular MFAU assessment (e.g. CTG) as part of their antenatal management plan, the days of the week for ongoing assessment may be indicated rather than actual dates.
- These appointments will be booked with the MFAU ward clerk on ext. # 82131.

### **Arranging blood tests for MFAU assessments**

- If a woman is required to have a blood test performed as part of their booked assessment in MFAU, this should be performed in the pathology department prior to their assessment. The request form should be completed and given to the woman.
- Note: Severity of symptoms needs to be considered: there are times when pathology referral is unsuitable/ unsafe. In these cases, refer directly to MFAU.
- If the booked appointment is at a weekend or time when the laboratory is closed, the woman shall be advised to present the request form on arrival to MFAU and have bloods collected then.
- Phlebotomy staff are available on weekdays/ weekends if difficult bleed.

### **Arranging an ultrasound scan (USS) as part of a MFAU assessment.**

- If a bedside USS is required this can be performed in Antenatal clinic. If this is not possible, a clinical handover must occur to the practitioner responsible for the USS.
- A Sonographer is available 0830 to 1700 Monday to Friday in MFAU.
- If urgent (same day) formal USS followed by review in MFAU after is required, this must be discussed with MFAU co-ordinator (ext. # 82199) to ensure availability.

### **Assessment**

- Assessments of the woman will occur in MFAU as per the documented plan on the MFAU attendance sticker and MFAU clinical guidelines. Usual midwifery review

shall occur.

- If further review is specified in the plan, or indicated by the assessment, the midwife shall contact the designated doctor.
- If urgent review is required, the MFAU registrar or LBS registrar shall review.

### **Medical review for planned MFAU attendances**

- To promote continuity of care, the **nominated** doctor named on the MFAU sticker will be contacted. Initially this can be done via the pager system.
- If there is no reply within 15 minutes a repeat page shall be sent.
- If there is still no response after a further 5 minutes they should be contacted via the switchboard.
- If the **nominated** doctor is unable to be contacted, escalation to the team senior registrar or consultant shall occur.
- Once contacted verbal clinical handover should occur. The doctor may be able to provide an ongoing management plan over the phone.
- If a formal medical review is required, this should take place within 20 minutes of being contacted.
- If the *nominated* doctor is unable to attend within 20 minutes they shall make this known and handover the woman to another doctor who can review within the required time frame. Ideally this should be a member of the treating team but may be the MFAU registrar.
- If no review has occurred within 20 minutes, the **nominated** doctor will be called again.
- If no medical review has taken place within 45 minutes, and the team is still unable to review, escalation to the MFAU/LW registrar, or senior registrar or consultant on call shall occur.
- If the situation requires more urgent review, the LW/MFAU registrar shall be asked to review and initiate management. Code blue medical may be a consideration if situation demands. See also Clinical Deterioration guideline.
- Once assessed, the MFAU registrar shall contact the designated team doctor or senior team member and hand the woman back over to their care, ensuring either admission or follow up as an outpatient has been arranged.
- Circumstances may dictate that additional support is required to ensure timely review of the women attending. Contact shall be made with the senior registrar on call. If they cannot be contacted or are busy then the consultant on call should be contacted.

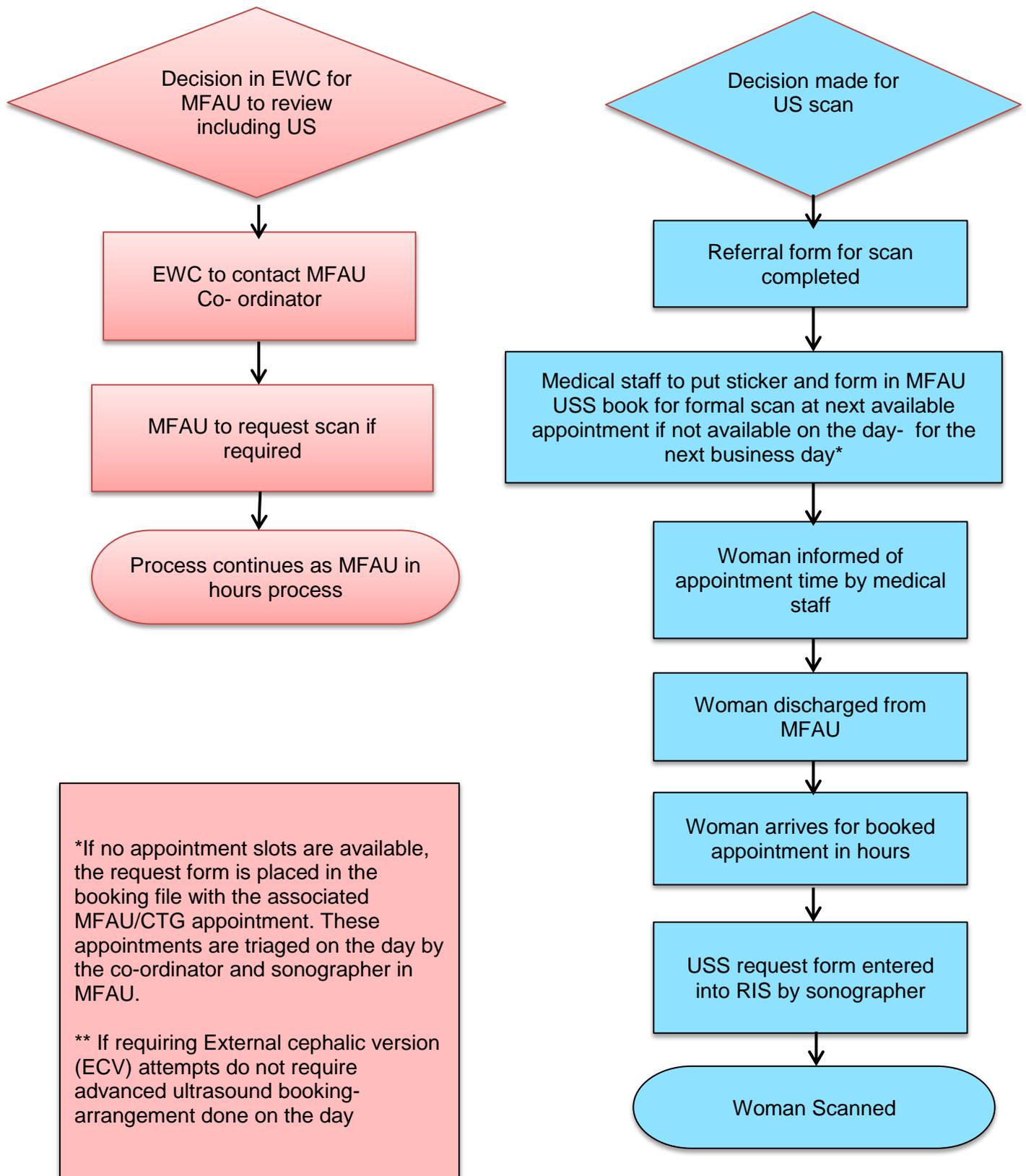
### **Antenatal Follow Up**

If the woman is being discharged home from MFAU the arrangements for their next planned appointment should be booked and clearly documented. These appointments may include further MFAU assessment, booked ANC or plans for delivery including Induction of labour/ Elective Caesarean Section date.

## Referral process for USS in MFAU

### Office hours

### After hours



Keywords:	MFAU, referral to MFAU, Maternal Fetal Assessment Unit, MFAU assessment, US scan in MFAU,		
Document owner:	Obstetrics Gynaecology and Imaging Directorate (OGID)		
Author / Reviewer:	O&G Evidence Based Clinical Guidelines		
Date first issued:	10/2014		
Last reviewed:	27/07/2017	Next review:	27/07/2017
Endorsed by:	MSMSC OOS - S White, B Lourey, L Ashton	Date:	6/2/2018 21/2/2018
Standards Applicable:	NSQHS Standards: 1  Governance, 6  Clinical Handover, 9  Clinical Deterioration		
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