

Ref. No: 1028  
Date: 24/06/2024  
Subject: Fetal Cardiac Images

## REQUEST

We are aware of the NHS England FASP 20-week scan guidance document, which notes “*There is no requirement to archive images of the fetal cardiac protocol views*”. However, we are aware there is disparity amongst NHS Hospital Trusts nationally when congenital heart defects are not identified at this scan. We understand some Hospital Trusts don’t retain fetal cardiac images, some do, and some retain video clips, and some retain both. There doesn’t seem to be any consistency.

We have been advised by NHS England and all the ICB’s that they do not hold the following information as it is “granular”. We have been advised to approach each of the Acute Trusts. Our questions are:

1. When congenital heart defects ARE NOT identified during screening at the 20-week fetal anomaly scan:
  - a. Does your Trust currently retain the fetal cardiac views?
  - b. Were fetal cardiac views retained in 2021 and 2022?
  - c. If views are currently retained, are these still images or video clips?
  - d. For how long has your Trust had this fetal cardiac view retention policy?

Utilising the regional data in the NICOR 2023 National Congenital Heart Disease Audit, we’re seeking to establish if there is any correlation between those ICS’s / Trusts that do not keep any records, and those ICS’s / Trusts which have considerably lower regional antenatal detection rates. Nobody we have approached seems to hold this information and therefore it seems there is no national co-ordination, review or assessment of this data.

## RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust became a single legal entity known as Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, as such parts of the response may be provided in two sections relating to the hospital sites of each of the legacy organisations.

### **1. When congenital heart defects ARE NOT identified during screening at the 20-week fetal anomaly scan:**

#### **a. Does your Trust currently retain the fetal cardiac views?**

##### St. Helens and Knowsley response

Yes we store fetal cardiac views on the PACS system

##### Southport and Ormskirk

As per FASP guidance we do not currently store images on PACS.

#### **b. Were fetal cardiac views retained in 2021 and 2022?**

##### St. Helens and Knowsley response

Yes

#### **c. If views are currently retained, are these still images or video clips?**

##### St. Helens and Knowsley response

Still images on PACS

#### **d. For how long has your Trust had this fetal cardiac view retention policy?**

##### St. Helens and Knowsley response

Since 2002