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From: Public
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Subject: Trans-vaginal ultrasounds within the NHS trusts.

REQUEST

For this dissertation, I am carrying out a health policy analysis on clinical policy and practice regarding trans-vaginal ultrasounds within the NHS trusts in the UK and would like some information regarding your trusts policies. This information will be included in my dissertation, which may in the future be developed for publishing.

I would be grateful for the following information from your trust:

- In your policy you state that TVUS would not be carried out on someone who has never been sexually active but then state that you would do so with the patient is over 18 and consents, and I just wanted to clarify - would TVUS be carried out on someone who has never been sexually active before, and if not, why?

RESPONSE

Transvaginal ultrasound uses a specially designed probe which is inserted into the vagina for closer visualisation of womb and ovaries. If the hymen is intact (virgin) the procedure can be painful for women.

We do not offer this scan to women who are not sexually active unless they give consent. Some women may have had cervical smears or used tampons and are prepared to undergo a transvaginal scan.

There are alternative modalities to assess the pelvic organs like MRI scan instead of the transvaginal scan. We would discuss the reason for the scan, alternative modalities and then explain the discomfort to be expected during the scan before obtaining consent for transvaginal ultrasound.