



The United Bristol Healthcare



NHS Trust

# **Patient Information**



## **St Michael's Hospital Fetal Medicine Unit**

Southwell Street, Bristol, BS2 8EG

Telephone 0117 928 5470 or Fax 0117 928 5180

Information for patients



## Welcome to the Fetal Medicine Unit

- You have been referred to the Fetal Medicine Unit today for a Specialist opinion, advice and possibly for further tests.
- The Fetal Medicine Specialist will carry out a detailed ultrasound scan in order to examine your baby. They will then discuss the findings and their meaning with you.
- It is preferable that you bring your partner or a relative or close friend with you.
- Please also make sure that you bring your hand held notes with you.

## How long will my appointment take?

- Appointments in the Unit take variable lengths of time. We appreciate that this is a stressful time for you and your family, but sometimes the time of your consultation may be delayed and for this we apologise.
- It is difficult to anticipate and plan appointment times, especially as we try to tailor our counselling and length of visit according to individual needs.
- We are a Regional Referral Unit with specialist facilities. This means that we see clients from all over the South West Region on an outpatient basis.
- Because of the above we sometimes see emergency cases within 24 hours of referral. This can mean re-prioritising our appointment times on a daily basis.

## Who will be present during my scan?

- As we are a teaching unit there may be several people present while you are having your consultation.
- These include the Fetal Medicine Specialist, a trainee in Fetal Medicine, the midwife who is co-ordinating the clinic that day and occasionally a student doctor or midwives. No more than 5 people would be in the room, unless in special circumstances, when you would be asked.
- Please let us know if you would rather not have extra people present.

## What will happen during my visit?

- The aim is to provide as much information as possible for you and your referring doctor; and to plan the appropriate management of your pregnancy.
- You will be seen by a team of doctors and midwives, who have appropriate expertise in Fetal Medicine.
- Specialist tests will be offered if appropriate, with counselling and full explanation of the risks and advantages, so that you can give informed consent.
- We will arrange with you when and how results will be given.

## Scan photography and video-taping

- **We are not able to record the scan on video-tape for your own personal use.**
- During your ultrasound scan we do take photographs and sometimes video-tape to aid with diagnosis, to discuss with other specialists involved in your case and for audit.
- As far as possible personal details are restricted to maintain privacy and all images are kept in your FMU record in this department. **Video-tapes are not retained as medical records.**
- If you do not wish photos or tapes to be made during your visit please inform us.

## The future

This department contributes information to the Southwest Congenital Abnormality register. This register is to:

- help find out about groups of birth abnormalities in the same area.
- help check that the scanning/detection services you receive during pregnancy are working well.
- determine the necessary facilities are provided in the hospitals and community services caring for expectant mothers.
- answer research questions about specific abnormalities.

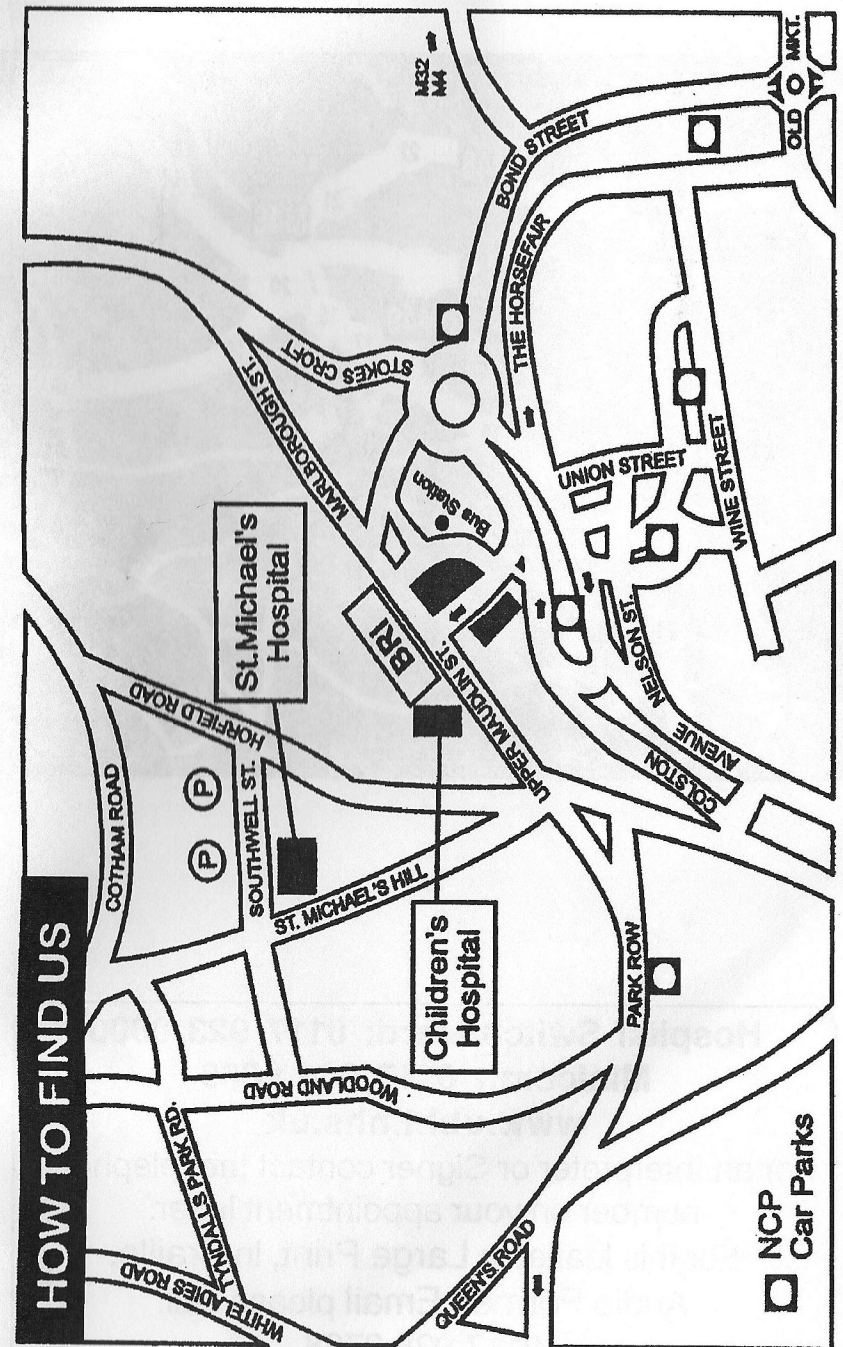
## Finally...

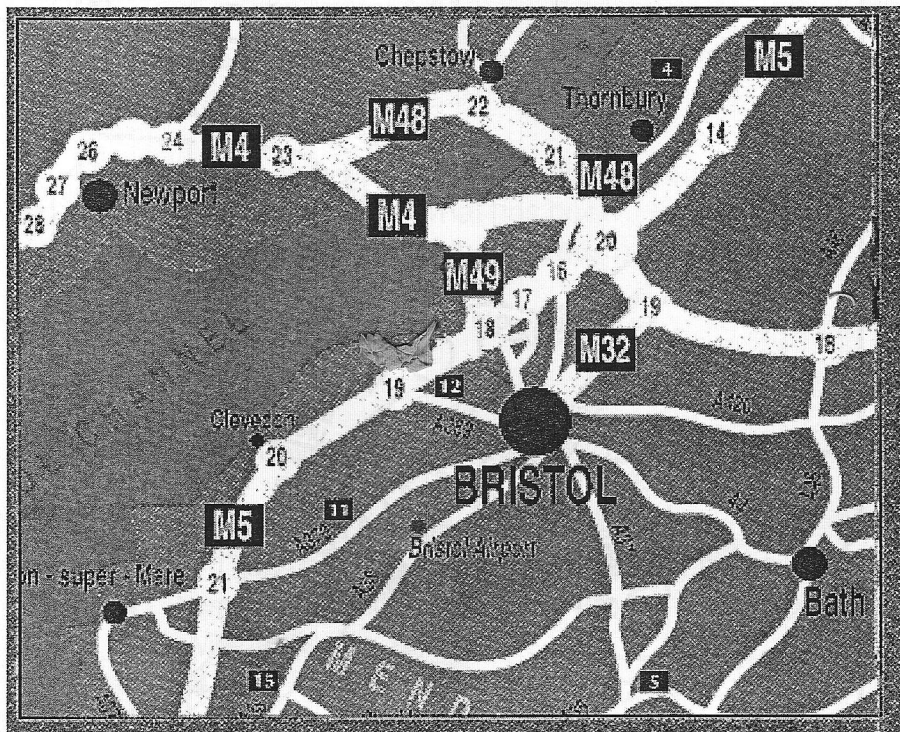
- We hope that your visit to the FMU will be helpful and we will endeavour to answer all your questions.
- Please ask one of the staff to explain things to you if you are unclear about what has been said or if you are unhappy about anything that has happened during your visit.

## Location

- FMU is on Level E of St Michael's Maternity Hospital.
- Parking is limited so please allow time to find a space. There are two Pay and Display car parks in Southwell Street, otherwise there are metered spaces on St Michael's Hill.
- A map showing the location of the hospital is on the opposite page. Please feel free to telephone us if you have difficulties finding us or if you are unable to attend.

Telephone  
0117 928 5470





**Hospital Switchboard: 0117 923 0000**

**Minicom: 0117 934 9869**

**[www.ubht.nhs.uk](http://www.ubht.nhs.uk)**

For an Interpreter or Signer contact the telephone number on your appointment letter.

For this leaflet in Large Print, in Braille, Audio Format, Email please call:

**0117 928 3728**