

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH POLICY COMMUNIQUE 2012  
FETAL SEX DETERMINATION BY ULTRASOUND**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2012**

**POLICY OBJECTIVE**

The objective of this policy is to achieve:

- consistency in approach across health authorities to fetal sex determination by ultrasound and disclosure of fetal sex information to patients;
- alignment with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia's Guideline on Disclosure of Fetal Sex; and,
- alignment with Canadian clinical practice guidelines.

**SCOPE**

This policy applies to obstetrical ultrasound services provided by the regional health authorities and the Provincial Health Services Authority.

**POLICY**

1. At the time of a routine full fetal anatomical assessment, a reasonable attempt will be made by the practitioner performing the ultrasound assessment to assess fetal genitalia within the allotted exam time.
2. The allotted exam time will not be extended for the sole purpose of determining fetal sex and repeat exams will not be scheduled for the sole purpose of determining fetal sex.
3. The sex of the fetus will be recorded as Male, Female or Not Determined in the notes taken during the ultrasound assessment.
4. The practitioner performing the ultrasound assessment is not to release any information about the sex of the fetus directly to the patient.
5. The sex of the fetus shall be on the final report that is issued to the referring practitioner.
6. The patient may request fetal sex information from her referring practitioner.

MINISTRY CONTACT: Executive Director, Hospital and Provincial Services Branch