



GP guide for the imaging of patients with upper abdominal signs and symptoms

Ultrasound is the first-choice investigation for a range of clinical conditions, including:

- Liver cirrhosis
- Pancreatitis
- Gall bladder disease
- Liver masses

How do I refer a patient?

Complete an ultrasound or MRI referral form which you can download from our website www.inhealthgroup.com or request via email to info@inhealthgroup.com. Please specify the presenting complaint and relevant past medical history, and indicate which area is to be investigated on the form.

Requests for imaging should take into account its appropriateness for the clinical condition, the potential health benefit and the suitability of the patient for the investigation.

Please return the completed form by fax to **0844 581 0305** or by secure email to INL.inhealthreferrals@nhs.net. Once we have received the referral form we will contact your patient to book a suitable appointment time.

Referral Guidelines

Presenting Complaint	Imaging Guidance
Abnormal liver function test	<p>In patients with abnormal liver function tests, ultrasound may show increased liver size, haemangiomas, cirrhosis, and gall bladder or bile duct disease.</p> <p>Abdominal MRI or CT may provide additional clinical information.</p>
Jaundice	<p>Ultrasound reliably differentiates between obstructive and non-obstructive jaundice, but bile duct dilation may be subtle in early obstruction.</p> <p>Abdominal MRI or CT may provide additional clinical information.</p>
Pain in upper abdomen, suggestive of gall stones or pancreatitis	<p>Ultrasound is the investigation of choice to show or exclude gall stones and acute cholecystitis.</p> <p>MR cholangio-pancreatography (MRCP) may be of value to provide a better view of the common bile duct.</p>
Enlarged liver or gall bladder	<p>Ultrasound may show increased liver size, haemangiomas, cirrhosis, and gall stones or bile duct disease.</p> <p>Abdominal MRI or CT may provide additional clinical information.</p>

References

Referral Guidelines – Making the best use of clinical radiology services. Royal College of Radiologists, 6th Edition, 2007

Framework for Primary Care Access to Imaging – Right Test, Right Time, Right Place. Royal College of Radiologists and Royal College of General Practitioners, 2006