

UnityPoint Health - Des Moines

On Call Ultrasound Requests

Ultrasound is available 24/7. However, there are a limited number of ultrasound technologists available after normal operating hours to provide coverage at Iowa Lutheran and Methodist West Hospital. The following changes are necessary to preserve long-term ultrasound coverage for emergencies. It is important that the requests are appropriate and clinically indicated.

A current open position exists to provide ultrasound coverage Monday-Thursday 11pm-8am covering ILH and MWH eliminating the need for call coverage Monday-Thursday. Call guidelines will be in effect Friday-Sunday when this position is filled. When this position is vacant call guidelines will be in effect Monday-Sunday and all holidays.

UPH-DM Ultrasound hours of operation by campus:

- IMMC:
 - Onsite staff: 7 days a week 24 hours a day
- ILH:
 - Onsite staff: Monday-Friday 6:45am-4:30pm.
 - Onsite traveling between ILH and MWH
 - Monday-Friday 4pm-11pm
 - Saturday and Sunday 8am-8pm
 - On-call staff:
 - Monday-Friday 11pm-7am
 - Saturday and Sunday 8pm-8am and Holidays
- MWH:
 - Onsite staff: Monday-Friday
 - No onsite coverage 8am-4pm, covered by IMMC and ILH
 - Onsite traveling between ILH and MWH:
 - Monday-Friday 4pm-11pm, Saturday and Sunday 8am-8pm
 - On-call staff:
 - Monday-Friday 11pm-7am
 - Saturday and Sunday 8pm-8am and Holidays
 - Sonographers have a 30-minute on-site response time from the time they get the call to arrival at the hospital.

To facilitate effective Ultrasound, UPH-DM Radiology has defined emergent Ultrasound exams and the process for on-call (after hours) Ultrasound orders.

Emergent Ultrasounds:

The following conditions are appropriate for an emergent ultrasound and a sonographer will be called in to perform:

1. Testicular Torsion
2. Ovarian Torsion
3. Ectopic Pregnancy
4. OB Emergency: ultrasound is deemed medically necessary by the OB/ordering provider to facilitate emergency care for a mother or fetus.

Alternative Imaging: For diagnoses other than those listed, the provider is asked to consider alternative imaging and care plans. Alternative plans can be discussed with Radiology and/or an appropriate specialist. Unique clinical scenarios may exist.

Non Emergent Ultrasounds:

Ultrasounds ordered STAT that do not meet emergent criteria will have the exam performed first in the morning. Radiology will reserve ultrasound appointments for these patients.