



**RADIOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF SOUTH AFRICA**

*The Professional Association of Radiologists
in South Africa, Namibia and Botswana*

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

CHANGE IN INDEMNITY - OBSTETRIC AND FOETAL ULTRASOUND

The vast majority of radiologists hold indemnity insurance with the Medical Protection Society (MPS).

Due to recent claims experience and the failure of some practitioners in all specialties to detect foetal anomalies, the MPS has increased the risk level of obstetric and foetal ultrasound, performed for **any indication**, in the second and third trimesters of pregnancy. MPS has imposed a punitive premium increase on the small number of radiologists who wish to continue doing these examinations and a 3000% (three thousand%) increase in the premium payable by sonographers either self employed or employed by radiologists.

Exclusion of foetal anomalies by ultrasound is no longer part of the basic curriculum in SA radiology training departments without additional post specialist qualification training. Few, if any radiologists, are prepared to undergo this post-specialist training as most routine foetal and obstetric ultrasound is done by the gynaecologists. A skill without a clinical workload has little value and a skill not practiced may become dangerous when used occasionally.

Due to this combination of factors, it is expected that **the majority of radiologists in practice will be precluded from performing nuchal assessment, foetal assessment or any second or third trimester obstetric ultrasound for any indication after 01 October 2013**. This will affect both elective and emergency services.

Radiologists will continue to perform scans up to the 13th week of pregnancy, to date the gestation, confirm location and examine the pelvic organs.

The RSSA supports this position. Radiologists in practice will be informing their casualty departments and landlords of these changes to allow them to arrange suitable elective and emergency cover from those practitioners (gynecologists and others) who do the vast majority of the second and third trimester scans at present.

**RSSA EXCO
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