

## **Arm Arterial Duplex Ultrasound** **(with and without pressures)**

### **What:**

An ultrasound scan to assess the blood flow in the arteries within the arm that supply blood to the arm and the hands. This test should take 30-60 minutes.

### **Why:**

The arteries within the arm may become narrowed or blocked, reducing blood supply to the arm and the hands. This may cause unexplained arm aching or tightness whilst using the arm. Reduced pulses in one arm when compared to the other. In some cases, the artery in the shoulder gets compressed between the first rib and the collar bone causing pain the arm during certain movements (thoracic outlet). Other reasons for the test may be a history of previous interventions within the arm arteries or a pre-op scan to determine suitable vessels for a fistula for dialysis.

### **Involves:**

- The scan is performed in a private ultrasound room where a sonographer will explain the scan and answer any questions you may have.
- You will be asked to lie down on an examination bed and remove any outer clothing you have to allow access to the arm.
- Underwear and bras will be kept on during the examination. A vest is the ideal item of clothing to wear.
- An ultrasound probe and a small amount of gel will be placed on the skin with a mild amount of pressure applied along the course of the arteries.
- The sound of a pulse will be heard from the ultrasound machine, this is when the blood flow is being assessed.

The results will be sent to the referring Doctor who will discuss and explain the outcome to you.