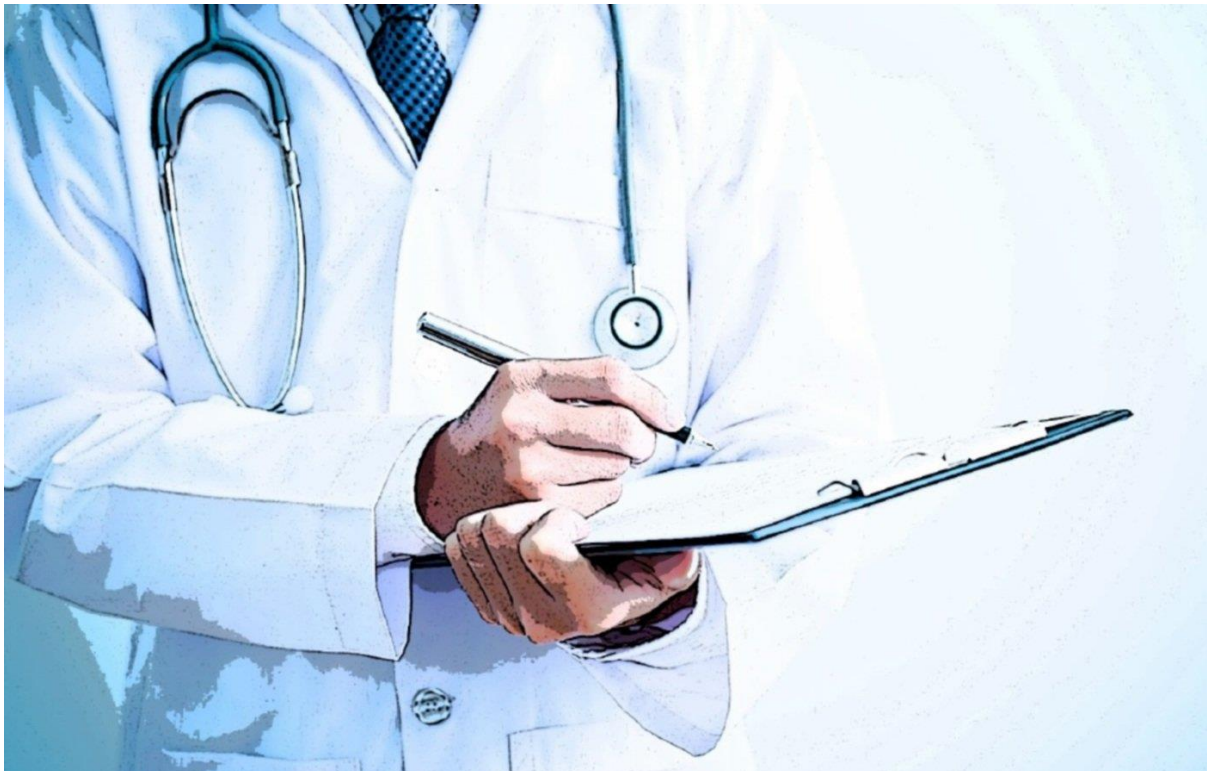


MMA, medical groups warn of safety risks posed by unlicensed ultrasound centres

By New Straits Times

13 October 2025



Medical groups are concerned with the rise in the number of unlicensed ultrasound centres, saying the procedures performed there should be performed by medical specialists. Pic for illustration purposes only

KUALA LUMPUR: Obstetrics, gynaecology and radiology fraternities and the Malaysian Medical Association are concerned over the rapid rise of unlicensed ultrasound centres across the country.

MMA president Datuk Dr Thirunavukarasu Rajoo, Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Malaysia president Dr RM Udayar Pandian Ramachandhiran, and Academy of Medicine of Malaysia's college of radiology president Dr Farhana Fadzli said these centres are unregulated and advertise a wide range of services on social media.

In a joint statement, they said many of these procedures should be performed by medical specialists.

"Presently many of these centres are operated by sonographers who remain unregulated. There is currently no legislation or provision under the Medical Act to allow this practice.

"This allows these unregulated, unlicensed practitioners to evade legal action. This raises serious medicolegal issues and, more importantly, significant patient safety risks and concerns," the statement read.

The associations urged the public not to be misled by centres that appear to offer specialised ultrasound scans at lower costs.

They said these services may provide a wrong diagnosis, which could alarm a patient unnecessarily or, worse, delay urgent treatment.

They added that these services may give patients a false sense of security while lacking the quality, accuracy and accountability expected in proper medical care.

"It is our strong and concerted view that detailed screening, diagnosis for fetal anomalies in pregnancy, follicular tracking and more detailed ultrasound for infertility management should be done by qualified obstetricians and gynaecologists, maternal fetal medicine specialists and fertility specialists respectively.

"Similarly, specialised and targeted scans such as breast and thyroid lesion characterisation, tumour assessments in abdominal organs, and musculoskeletal evaluations should remain within the expertise of radiologists," they said.

They added that general practitioners with appropriate point-of-care ultrasound training may conduct basic and focused scans such as those for low-risk pregnancies, simple gynaecological conditions, basic abdominal assessments and evaluations of lumps or soft tissue swellings.

However, the associations said that such scans should only serve as preliminary assessments, and that any complex, inconclusive or high-risk findings must be promptly referred to the relevant specialist for a full evaluation and definitive management.