Indications:
A biophysical profile (BPP) includes ultrasound monitoring of fetal movements, fetal tone and fetal breathing, ultrasound assessment of amniotic fluid volume with the fetal heart rate. The BPP is performed in an effort to identify fetus(s) that may be at risk of poor pregnancy outcome and for any other valid medical reason.

General Description:
This is a survey of the female pelvis, which will include examination of a fetus(s). It may be done in conjunction with a complete OB greater than 14 wks or not. To further delineate with real time ultrasound has extended benefits beyond measurement of AFV. It allows the sonographer to observe more integrated functions of the fetus as well. The BPP is a function of that observation. It has been developed and modified in order to better determine which fetus(s) are truly compromised and which are not.

Patient Preparation:
The patient’s urinary bladder must be adequately distended in order to evaluate the cervical os. This typically requires drinking at least 24oz. to 32oz. of water 1 hour prior to the exam.

Equipment Selection and Settings:
Select OB from preset menu.
A curvilinear 4.0MHz probe will be used for most patients. The sonographer should use the preprogrammed setting for the appropriate body part and adjust gain, depth, and transmit zone settings to optimize images.

Imaging Sequence:
Identify, document, and/or measure the following if present:

- Presence and number of fetus(s).
- Cardiac activity, fetal heart rate.
- Use the biophysical profile software which includes amniotic fluid index on the ultrasound unit.
- The following table shows how each BPP is scored. **NOTE**: The results are either two or zero; there are no odd numbers.
Biophysical profile is based on an 8 point scale. If the score is reduced by 2 points or more (a score of 6 or less out of a possible 8) make sure to bring to a radiologists attention