

Electronic Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring Interpretation and Management Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Electronic Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring Interpretation and Management Program?

The Electronic Fetal Heart Rate Interpretation and Management program is a web-based program created by GE Healthcare on the use of standardized FHR terminology, based on the definitions proposed by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). The program emphasizes the importance of accurate, consistent interpretation and communication.

Who should take this program?

The program is designed for Physicians, Midwives, Nurses, Fellows, Residents and students specializing in Obstetrics. The program reinforces standard terminology, and can facilitate communication, for enhanced patient outcomes.

What makes up the program?

The Electronic Fetal Heart Rate Interpretation and Management program consists of five interactive courses. The courses provide questions, detailed feedback, explanations and references. Medical illustration and animation enhance key concepts for additional information. Each course has a post-test, designed to document the participant's knowledge of standardized fetal heart rate terminology and pattern recognition. The courses are peer reviewed and referenced.

Course 1 - Reviews NICHD definitions for visual interpretation of FHR patterns in a pretest/tutorial format.

Detailed explanations and representative FHR tracings support Q&As.

Courses 2-5 - Explore clinical cases reviewing FHR pattern definitions and pathophysiology.

- Course 2 examines variable deceleration patterns.
- Course 3 reviews late deceleration patterns.
- Course 4 focuses on fetal acid-base status.
- Course 5 emphasizes the relationship between oxytocin, uterine activity and FHR patterns.

Is there continuing education credit?

Yes.

Nursing continuing education contact hours are provided by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number 12057 for a total of 12 contact hours.

What are the benefits of using the Electronic Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring Interpretation and Management Program?

This program teaches and promotes a national standard for the visual interpretation of FHR patterns as proposed by the NICHD Research Planning Workshop in 1997. Language and terminology is standardized, facilitating communication, thus helping to reduce errors and improve patient safety, which may result in better outcomes. This enables the health care enterprise to meet patient safety standards set by JACHO and other accrediting groups.

Why is this program unique?

This is a web-based interactive program that uses the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) terminology throughout all five courses to reinforce consistent and standardized language. The program is peer reviewed and referenced.

Why is this program important for clinicians today?

Electronic fetal heart monitoring has been in use for more than 30 years. Yet, until recently there has been no agreement on standard definitions and nomenclature for interpreting FHR patterns. As identified by JCAHO the lack of a common language to describe and interpret electronic fetal heart rate patterns has contributed to inconsistent interpretation and management, which can jeopardize patient safety and may lead to increased litigation and higher malpractice premiums.

In July 2004 the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), published Sentinel Event Alert Issue Number 30, identifying abnormal fetal heart rate tracings and poor communication as the leading factors in adverse perinatal outcomes. JCAHO recommended the use of standardized terminology and protocols to communicate and interpret abnormal fetal heart rate tracings.

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In May 2005 The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) published Practice Bulletin Number 62 entitled "Intrapartum Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring", endorsing the NICHD fetal heart rate definitions proposed in 1997. Shortly thereafter, the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) announced the exclusive use of standardized NICHD terminology in their fetal monitoring education programs.

The primary objective of the Electronic Fetal Monitoring education courses is to emphasize the importance of accurate, consistent communication and interpretation of FHR patterns using standardized terminology proposed by the NICHD.

How is this program taught?

The Electronic Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring Education Program is web-based and part of GE Healthcare's Learning Management System (LMS), which can be accessed from any computer with an Internet connection. This means that the courses are available 24/7 providing flexibility when and where classes are accessed. The LMS provides the ability to document the classes, which are taken and post-test scores.

How often can I access the program?

Registered users have access to the program for 2 years from the time of first use. This facilitates review and repetition of the material to enhance learning.

Does it matter what fetal monitor we have?

GE's Electronic Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring Interpretation and Management Program is not related to any product. It is strictly education and vendor neutral.

Who created this educational program?

Frank Miller, MD, FACOG and David Miller, MD FACOG, nationally recognized fetal monitoring experts developed the Electronic Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring educational program for clinical professionals.

Frank Miller, and his son, David are practicing Obstetricians-Gynecologists, as well as Maternal Fetal Medicine sub-specialists. Both did their Fellowship in Maternal-Fetal medicine at the University of Southern California. Frank and David have maintained a strong interest in teaching and research in electronic fetal monitoring.

Dr. Frank Miller during his tenure as President of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, proposed that Obstetricians and Gynecologists should prioritize and scientifically investigate the most frequent and costly events that lead to patient risks and medical liability claims. The two leading issues in obstetrics are neonatal encephalopathy/cerebral palsy and intrapartum fetal heart rate monitoring.

Dr. David Miller speaks frequently on perinatal risk management and standardized terminology. Numerous requests for an educational program from doctors and nurses in hospitals across the country led the Millers to partner with GE to create the e-learning program, making it more accessible and available to every hospital that needs this information.

How are the courses sold?

Courses 1-5 are sold as a package for \$249 per person for two years. Special pricing for resident programs is available at \$100 per person for two years. Contact your GE Healthcare Maternal-Infant Care sales representative for institutional pricing.

How do you purchase the educational program?

For additional information and purchase of the program with a credit card www.gehealthcare.com/fhr. For more information contact your GE Maternal-Infant Care sales representative or call 877 525-8195.

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Once the Electronic Fetal Heart Rate program is purchased how long will it be before the program can be accessed?

Please allow 1-2 weeks for the order to be processed. Once the order is processed you will receive an email with the web address and User Guide for the program. At that time you may go to the web address, register and begin taking the courses.

How long does each course take to complete?

Though the learning modules are self-paced, the length of time to complete the courses will depend on the person's current level of knowledge and experience. It should take no more than 12 hours for all five courses.

What is the NICHD Research Planning Workshop?

In 1995 and 1996, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), convened a panel of international experts on fetal heart rate monitoring with the goal of establishing standardized and unambiguous definitions of fetal heart rate patterns.

Their report was published in December 1997, and appeared simultaneously in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, (ACOG) and The Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Neonatal Nursing (JOGNN). This report proposed definitions with objective criteria to describe various FHR patterns. Recently, ACOG and AWHONN have adopted the NICHD terminology. This report can be viewed at http://www.gehealthcare.com/user/perinatal/docs/nichd_article.pdf

Our facility already has a learning management system. Can we use our current LMS?

A link from your existing LMS to the GE Healthcare LMS will work. However, users will still need to Log onto the GE Healthcare LMS using their username and password. Logging onto your existing LMS will not automatically log a person onto the GE Healthcare LMS.

What are the computer requirements?

For a PC computer Internet Explorer, Firefox and Netscape web browsers can be used. For a Mac computer the Safari web browser can be used.