

Electronic Fetal Monitoring (EFM)

Course Description

This two day workshop earns 16 contact hours and 15.25 CMEs. Offered in a standardized format, the course may be used as a competency assessment to validate the knowledge and skills of experienced nurses. Participants analyze case scenarios using key physiologic principles. Sessions offer demonstration, practice and testing of the following skills:

- Auscultation
- Performing Leopold's Maneuvers
- Placement of an intrauterine pressure catheter and spiral electrode
- Interpretation of tracings
- Identification of indicated nursing interventions
- Communication
- Documentation



Expected Level of Learner

This course is designed for registered nurses with a minimum of six months clinical nursing experience using fetal heart monitoring technology in an intrapartum setting. Participants are expected to already possess basic knowledge and related skills in the following areas:

- Maternal physiologic changes of pregnancy
- Fetal growth and development
- Methods of fetal monitoring
- Preparation of patient for set-up and initiation of external or internal fetal monitoring
- Obtaining and maintaining tracings that document fetal heart rate and uterine contractions
- Interpretation of uterine contraction frequency, duration, and baseline resting tone
- Identification of the baseline fetal heart rate, variability and deviations
- Indicated clinical interventions
- Communication and documentation standards

At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

- Demonstrate the decision-making process necessary for the proper selection and verification of fetal heart monitoring techniques.
- Analyze fetal heart rate patterns and their implications for fetal well-being.
- Correlate indicated clinical interventions with related maternal-fetal physiology.
- Describe the role and responsibility of the professional nurse in the use of FHM in intrapartum care.
- Simulate the psychomotor skills used in FHM.

Eligibility & Requirements to Attend

AWHONN maintains its position that only registered nurses, advanced practice nurses and physicians with professional expertise should initiate and evaluate the ongoing use of EFM technology. Furthermore, AWHONN strongly advises that all nurses who perform fetal assessment during the antepartum or intrapartum period complete a course of study that includes the physiologic interpretation of EFM data and its implications for labor support.

Physicians may attend the Intermediate and Advanced Courses and may receive Continuing Medical Education credit for full participation. Continuing Medical Education Credit is managed by Professional Education Services Group and will be available via the AWHONN online CE/CME system. Determination of physician eligibility for CME is at the discretion of the facility offering the course.

LPNs and LVNs may attend the Intermediate and Advanced Courses for educational development purposes. Determination of eligibility and participation is at the discretion of the facility offering the course and may vary according to state practice regulations. LPNs may receive contact hours and may elect to participate in the skills stations for the Intermediate Course as a learning experience.