

**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER
INPATIENT OBSTETRICS
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

**NUMBER: 4750
VERSION: 2**

SUBJECT/TITLE: FETAL MONITOR (EXTERNAL)-APPLICATION OF

MD ORDER: YES [] NO [X]

POLICY: All obstetric patients with viable fetuses greater than 24 weeks gestation will be continuously monitored via electronic fetal monitor unless there is a specific physician's order to monitor intermittently.

PURPOSE: To outline the nursing responsibilities in the application of the ultrasound transducer (for fetal heart rate monitoring) and tocotransducer (for maternal uterine contraction) monitoring.

DEPARTMENTS: Medicine, Nursing 3D- PostPartum/Nursery

DEFINITIONS:

EQUIPMENT LIST: Electronic fetal monitor, ultrasound transducer, tocotransducer, ultrasound coupling gel, 2 abdominal straps

PROCEDURE: I. PROCEDURE

1. Wash hands
2. Explain procedure to the patient
3. Associate the patient to the corresponding monitor
4. Place straps under the patients back
5. Connect the appropriate transducer plugs to the corresponding color-coded connector on the front panel of the monitor
6. Turn fetal monitor on

II. FHR RECORDING – ULTRASOUND

1. Determine the position of the fetus using Leopold's maneuvers. Locate the fetal back as this is usually where the strongest fetal heart tones are heard. Avoid the maternal aorta.
2. Insert the corner of the abdominal strap through one slot on the transducer and pull it through several inches.
3. Apply a small amount of ultrasonic gel to the transducer face.
4. Place the transducer face down on the maternal abdomen where the

- strongest heart tones are heard.
5. Adjust the volume on front panel of the monitor.
 6. Reposition the transducer as necessary until clearest heart sound is heard through speaker.
 7. Insert the other end of the strap through the remaining slot in the transducer and adjust to a comfortable fit.
 8. Make sure the recorder is activated and ensure that a tracing appears.
 - After a clear heart sound is heard, the heart shaped indicator will flash synchronously with the sound, indicating signal acceptance and recording.
 9. Readjustment of monitors are mandatory when patient changes her position and fetal heart tracing no longer records.

III. UTERINE ACTIVITY RECORDING – TOCODYNAMOMETER

1. Depress the UA reference push-button for one second.
2. Insert a corner of the strap through one slot of the tocotransducer and pull through several inches.
3. Position tocotransducer on the maternal abdomen over the uterine fundus or where there is the least maternal tissue.
4. Insert the other end of the strap into the remaining slot and tighten to hold transducer securely in place.
5. When the uterus is relaxed, depress the UA reference. Push-button again for one second.
 - This will reset the UA baseline.

DOCUMENTATION:

Document Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring and Contraction Information in the electronic health record.

Fetal monitoring strips: Each individual strip should contain label with Patient’s name, date of birth, FIN, MRN, strip number, and date.

References:	
Approved by: Jan Love (Clinical Nurse Director II)	Date: 09/12/2016
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