

Fetal Heart Monitoring

Nursing

The elements of a systematic trace review, and why it is never read alone.

Review systematically and record the review, not only the trace.

Look at, in order

Why monitoring was started

Contractions: frequency and duration

Baseline rate

Baseline variability

Accelerations

Decelerations, and their timing

Principles

Confirm the maternal pulse is not being recorded

Overall classification, then an overall opinion

Escalate concerning patterns immediately

The clinical picture outranks the paper

Record who reviewed it, and when

Educational reference. Interpretation is a specialist competency with formal training and local classification guidance. This is orientation only.