

# Electronic Fetal Monitoring



Fetal Heart Rate Monitoring (eFM): an e-learning resource improving the interpretation of eFM in labour and its subsequent management

eFM is a joint initiative undertaken by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), Royal College of Midwives (RCM) and DH e-Learning for Healthcare.

Obstetricians and midwives working on labour wards, both those in training and those who have completed their training, are required to independently interpret cardiotocographs (CTGs). On the basis of this interpretation, together with a review of clinical factors, critical decisions about the management of labour are made. Insufficient knowledge and skill have major implications for the child, the mother, the family, the staff and the public as tax payers who support settling litigation costs and the care of babies with neurological defects.



Royal College of Obstetricians

“Every year, five hundred babies start labour apparently healthy and then die (intrapartum-related deaths), a figure that has remained unchanged over recent years”. (CMO Annual Report, 2006)



**Royal College of Midwives**  
The only professional organisation and trade union run by midwives for midwives

The RCOG is coordinating an exciting national partnership to provide e-learning modules to support learning and assessment in intrapartum fetal monitoring. This major collaboration, commenced in July 2009, is in partnership with the Department of Health and is one of several work streams across different specialties involved in the national e-Learning for Healthcare (e-LfH) programme.

The Educational Objectives of the programme are to develop a comprehensive e-learning resource that will teach and assess multi-professional groups (mainly obstetricians and midwives) to improve their interpretation of CTGs and subsequent clinical management.

The proposal is to initially develop a two component e-learning programme that will have a comprehensive case based tutorial section comprising around 16 sessions and a simulation section comprising 100-online case studies. The case studies will be ranked into one of three levels, broadly corresponding to the three levels of training for obstetricians. Each session (knowledge and case study) should take around 30 minutes.

Trainees, and indeed fully-qualified professionals (midwives and consultants), would be able to periodically assess themselves and to apply their knowledge in the same way that they would in real-life situations. The RCOG aims to add a further 100 cases every five years in order to mirror the five year continuing professional development cycle. Evidence of achievement can be used for recertification of specialists by the RCOG and then revalidation by the GMC.

Because of the different educational supervisory structure that operates, the RCM would recommend that the programme be a mandatory part of the training of midwifery students within Trusts and the ongoing CPD programmes for qualified midwives. This would operate at Trust Level.

Further information about the project is available via the RCOG and RCM websites or via a direct link to eFM at [www.e-lfh.org.uk/projects/efm](http://www.e-lfh.org.uk/projects/efm).