

## Appendix 2 – Troubleshooting for Intrapartum Continuous Fetal Heart Recording

| Troubleshooting for Intrapartum Continuous Fetal Heart Recording |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| Problem                                                          | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| No fetal heart rate before the CTG is commenced                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Senior Obstetric Doctor and Coordinator should be informed immediately</li> <li>• A portable US machine should be brought to the bedside.</li> <li>• Visualise fetal heart beating with ultrasound.</li> <li>• Confirm fetal life</li> <li>• Reposition US transducer</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Erratic recording, loss of contact with external transducer      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform Leopold's manoeuvres to locate fetal back</li> <li>• Reposition US transducer over fetal back</li> <li>• Readjust belt and apply enough gel over US transducer</li> <li>• If recording still suboptimal, locate fetal heart with ultrasound and reposition US transducer</li> <li>• If membranes ruptured and there are no contraindications, apply fetal scalp electrode.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Erratic or no recording with FSE                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm presence of fetal heartbeat with ultrasound or auscultation using pinard or sonicaid</li> <li>• Check that FSE wire is attached to the leg plate</li> <li>• Check FSE connection to fetus and replace it if detached</li> <li>• Check that external monitor is discontinued</li> <li>• Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) may interfere with the acquisition of FHR signal.</li> <li>• Call Senior Obstetrician and Senior Midwife and give full history and labour events to this point.</li> <li>• Consider expediting birth if fetal wellbeing cannot be adequately confirmed</li> </ul> |