

Appendix 3 – Troubleshooting for Intrapartum Continuous Fetal Heart Recording

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