

AWHONN Fetal Monitoring Program Course Revisions for 2025

The FHM (Fetal Heart Monitoring) team is pleased to share updates about the upcoming editions of the instructor-led Fetal Monitoring Courses for 2025.

The Fetal Heart Monitoring Principles and Practices textbook is a required text for participants' course preparation. We will continue to use the 6th edition with this revision.

Clinical Content:

Intermediate Fetal Monitoring Course (IFM)

Online Prerequisite:

- Section 1: Data Collection
- Section 2: Influences on FHR Patterns
- Section 3: Interpretation
- Section 4: Leopold Maneuvers video
- Section 5: Techniques
- Section 6: Intermittent Auscultation
- Section 7: IUPC / FSE video

Instructor-led in-person (1 day)

- Interpretation
- Interventions
- Evaluation and Synthesis
- Skill Stations:
 - 3 Case Scenarios
 - 9 Short Practice Tracings
 - Leopold Maneuvers
 - FSE/IUPC insertion

Included Resource Documents:

- NICHD Descriptive Term and Categories
- 2008 Three-Tier FHR Interpretation System
- Fetal Heart Monitoring Decision Tree
- Algorithm of Category II Fetal Heart Rate Tracings
- Thieme Shield's Algorithm of Category II Fetal Heart Rate Tracings
- Coping with Labor Algorithm
- Laboratory Normal Values by Trimester
- SBAR
- Obstetric Life Support Algorithm
- IFM Course Validation Form
- Short Practice Tracings Answer sheets
- AWHONN Membership Flyer

Overall course information

- CNE and CME hours have been updated to reflect the course content (11.5)
- All references have been updated
- All Triage cases have Maternal Fetal Triage Index (MFTI) scores
- Vital Signs are included on the tracings
- All tracings are at least 10 minutes in length
- The course has been reorganized to cover concepts at one time
- All graphics have been updated with new images on the cases

Knowledge Integration Test

- The test will remain a required part of the course.
- The test has been updated with four answers per question.
- The test will be in a different order for participants
- There is still a requirement to achieve 80% or greater to pass the class and receive a certificate
- There will be 3 attempts to pass the test
- The questions that were missed the most have been replaced with new questions

Advanced Fetal Monitoring Course (AFM)

Instructor-led in-person or virtual

- Culture of Safety
- Physiological Adaptations
- Complex Case Scenarios
 - 5 required and 3 cases that the instructor is to choose one of the three to discuss

Included Resource Documents:

- NICHD Descriptive Term and Categories
- 2008 Three-Tier FHR Interpretation System
- Fetal Heart Monitoring Decision Tree
- Algorithm of Category II Fetal Heart Rate Tracings
- Thieme Shields Algorithm of Category II Fetal Heart Rate Tracings
- Coping with Labor Algorithm
- Laboratory Normal Values by Trimester
- SBAR
- Oxyhemoglobin Dissociation Curve
- Maternal Early Warning Signs Protocol
- Obstetrics Life Support Algorithm
- Debrief Worksheet
- AWHONN Membership Flyer

Overall course information

- CNE and CME hours have been updated to reflect the course content (8.0)
- All references have been updated
- All Triage cases have Maternal Fetal Triage Index (MFTI) scores
- Vital Signs are included on the tracings
- All tracings are at least 10 minutes in length
- All graphics have been updated with new images on the cases

Knowledge Integration Test

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Intermediate Instructor Workshop (IIW)

Online Prerequisite:

- Principals of Adult Education

Instructor-led in-person

- Welcome
- Micro Teach

Instructor Resource Manual and Website
Teaching Skills Stations

Overall course information

CNE hours have been updated to reflect the course content (6.0)
All references have been updated
All graphics have been updated with new images on the cases
The course has been reorganized so that the Teaching Skills Stations are last in the workshop
The microteach slides will be integrated into the instructor manual and course presentation
No need to go from IIFM to IFM and back to IIFM presentations
Peer feedback forms are in the participant workbook- you do not have to make copies

Administrative Guidelines:

Instructor Resource Manual (IRM)

Intermediate Fetal Monitoring

The online prerequisite course outline with the script will be a separate spiral-bound book
The short practice tracing and case scenarios will be in the Instructor Teaching Materials, full set
The short practice tracing and case scenarios will also be included as a spiral-bound book (qty 2)
All the “answers” will be in the script of the slides
No flipping pages to find the answers
The IRM will be reduced by over 150 pages.
The instructions for how to find items on the FHM Instructor webpage will be on the webpage
All Resource documents are included in the IRM

Advanced Fetal Monitoring

The IRM will be reduced by over 150 pages.
The instructions for how to find items on the FHM Instructor webpage will be on the webpage
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Intermediate Instructor Workshop

AWHONN FHM team will continue to provide Instructor Trainers with their manual
The microteach slides will be integrated into the course slides with the script
The instructions for how to find items on the FHM Instructor webpage will be on the webpage

AWHONN FHM Instructor Responsibilities (IFM and IIW)

Register the course and receive a Course ID number
This allows participants 30 days to access the online prerequisite learning before attending the in-person course.
Provide participants with the course number and **Instructor ID number** to access the online prerequisite learning.
Verify the participants completed the online prerequisite before they attend the course.
Participants cannot attend the in-person course if all the online sections are not completed.
Instructors have access to the online roster 30 days before the course.
Instructors must indicate “pass” in the system after in-person courses.
Participants cannot access the online knowledge test, feedback form, and receive the CNE/CME certificate until they have been marked as passed
Participants' names will populate the prerequisite roster upon entry to the online education.
If the prerequisite education is incomplete, participants' names are dropped from the in-person attendee roster.

Instructors registered to teach the course will have the option the day before the course date to extend the course to allow participants to finish the prerequisite.
Instructors will be able to move participants' prerequisite education to a new course date if within the same edition.

AWHONN FHM Instructor Responsibilities (AFM)

Register the course and receive a Course ID number
There is no online prerequisite for the AFM course
The instructor must put the participant's name and email address on the course roster on the day of the AFM course (the spelling MUST match!)

Provide participants with the Course ID number to access the mandatory test after the course
Participants cannot access the online knowledge test, feedback form, and receive the CNE/CME certificate until they are on the roster

Course Participant Portal

All participant materials include instructions to the participant about accessing the online platform and include the mandatory test.

IFM and IIW:

Participants have access to complete the online learning prerequisite starting 30 days before the in-person course date. Unlimited attempts to complete the prerequisite. After completion, Participants can review the sections up until the course date.
After completing the online education, participants can submit questions to Instructors to discuss and respond during the classroom experience.

General Guidelines

Course Scripts

Scripts are NOT to be read verbatim. The scripts are provided to support the standardized presentation of the AWHONN Fetal Monitoring Courses.
Instructors are expected to prepare before all courses, becoming familiar with related material from the Fetal Heart Monitoring Principles and Practices textbook and with publications listed in the course references.
Reproduction of materials is prohibited except as expressly directed in the Instructor Resource Manuals. Violations of copyright laws may result in the termination of Instructor approval status. Instructor disclosures are required at the onset of all AWHONN courses.

Recommended Renewal Date

The AWHONN Fetal Monitoring Program is adding a "Recommended Renewal Date" to the instructor-led courses. The recommended renewal date will be two years from the last day of the month and the year you complete your fetal monitoring course. We are making this change to be consistent with the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross in heart resuscitation courses including BLS, ACLS, PALS, NRP, and other equivalent courses. Similar to S.T.A.B.L.E. and ALSO, AWHONN has selected "Recommended Renewal Date" to be on the certificate rather than "Expiration Date."

According to The Joint Commission (n.d.), "Although competency assessments and performance evaluations are two different requirements, they are interrelated. The competency assessment looks at whether clinical staff has the skills, knowledge, and abilities to perform the assigned job duties. Competency must be assessed by staff who understand the skills and knowledge required by the job responsibilities. Beyond the documented initial assessment to be finalized upon the completion of the staff's orientation, competency should be assessed on an ongoing basis with documentation of such at least once every two years.

The Joint Commission Perinatal Safety Standards PC.06.01.01 and PC.06.03.01 elements of performance require education to occur at orientation, whenever changes to the procedures occur, or every two years. The recommended renewal date is consistent with these elements of performance.

AWHONN will not monitor whether individuals or hospitals follow this recommendation. It will be up to the individual hospital/employer policies to make that decision.

AWHONN will not give guidance as to what course should be taken every two years, as that will be dependent upon the nurse taking the course. In some instances, the nurse should re-take the same course they took; in other instances, they should complete a more advanced AWHONN course, if available. Again, these will be directed by hospital policy and not an AWHONN requirement.

For more information, please see the document Frequently Asked Questions at www.awhonn.org > FHM Instructors Page > FHM News > 2025 Course Revisions. We will continue to communicate via email in the coming months regarding information and the status of the revisions. Once we have a release date and pricing, we will communicate that information to you as well. In addition, after the revisions are released, all participants should have the new materials when attending the courses, and Instructors are required to teach using the new materials.

In the meantime, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at fhm@awhonn.org. Thank you.

Sincerely,

AWHONN FHM Team