



Perinatal Quality Foundation

Improving the Quality of Obstetrical Medical Services...

Why did we start such a program?

Communication related to electronic fetal monitoring (EFM) has been identified as a significant contributor to sentinel events. Errors and variations in interpretation of EFM tracings can result in poor, suboptimal management decisions that may contribute to subsequent neonatal encephalopathy. Thus, the Joint Commission has specifically called for adoption of a common clinical language to facilitate better communication.

Why should you do credentialing in EFM?

Currently, there are numerous institutions requiring credentialing in EFM for health care providers interpreting EFM tracings on Labor and Delivery. There is little doubt that an expectation of credentialing will expand. In addition to hospital systems, many insurance companies not only require EFM credentialing but also offer premium discounts. With successful completion of the FMC exam, medical professionals can also receive credit from the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG) for Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Part IV: Improvement in Medical Practice.

Why should you use the PQF examination?

In effort to establish a common understanding of EFM interpretation, the PQF credentialing exam combines both knowledge and judgement questions to assess various aspects of EFM based on the clinical situation. This credentialing exam is a unique tool that identifies specific areas of strength and weakness in EFM interpretation by individual, institution, or professional group.

The knowledge questions (KT) take a familiar form (single answer, multiple choice). The judgement questions use an innovative approach called Script concordance testing (SCT). It tests clinical reasoning as it relates to decision-making. The SCT question format describes a clinical scenario and an initial management plan. Then as the case evolves an additional piece of specific information is provided. The examinee is then asked how the initial plan might be affected by the new piece of information. A unique aspect of the SCT question is that there is more than one acceptable answer, attempting to mirroring real clinical practice.

Who is PQF?

The Perinatal Quality Foundation is an independent affiliate of SMFM. The mission of the Perinatal Quality Foundation is to improve the quality of Obstetrical services. Hospital Labor and Delivery units are a primary focus for improvement in fetal safety. The foundation is committed to disseminating safe and excellent obstetrical practice protocols, to providing clinician and provider education, monitoring measures, and consensus discussions on emerging obstetrical technologies and to supporting research. Programs include The Nuchal Translucency Quality Review (NTQR), Cervical Length Education and Review (CLEAR), and recently released Genetic Education Module (GEM).

PQF is independent from any provider of classes, courses, or programs. The foundation is a not for profit organization. PQF experts are continually updating and reviewing test items and pass/fail standards, reviewing examination statistics and undertaking content validation studies.

The Privacy Statement can be viewed on line if more information is needed.