



Date: April 19, 2023

To: Physicians, Midwives, Nurses, and Perinatal Program Directors and Managers

From: Perinatal Services BC and PHSA Supply Chain

RE: Provincial Fetal Spiral Electrode (FSE) Shortage – **CRITICAL UPDATE – Please Share Widely**

- No further shipments of Philips FSE will be received
- Cardinal has also shipped the last supply of FSE's until at least the end of summer
- Supply of all FSE's will only last until October 2023 based on current usage. Cardinal is unable to support historical usage until at least January 2024, leaving a **3 month gap with potentially no FSE. We must reduce current usage by 50% to avoid running out of supply in October.**
- Gradual conversion to Cardinal FSE must occur at all sites and will be coordinated by PHSA Supply Chain. The following urgent actions are needed to reduce usage:
 1. Communicate to all perinatal providers and teams, include physicians, midwives, and RNs
 2. Employ strict conservation strategies (must reduce use by 50%)

Conservation is critical to stretch inventory to January 2024 and minimize patient impact:

Do	Do Not
Apply FSE only if there is a high risk medical indication for continuous monitoring and unable to obtain an interpretable tracing due to contact issues after multiple troubleshooting manoeuvres are unsuccessful	Do NOT apply FSE if multiple other troubleshooting maneuvers have not been tried Do NOT use for patient mobility when EFM tracing is normal or interpretable
Have the most experienced provider apply the FSE	Do NOT let learners apply FSE at this time
Use all other methods available to troubleshoot fetal heart rate monitoring by external transducer prior to application of FSE (Leopold's, reposition, O2 sat monitor or toco for maternal pulse)	Do NOT use for teaching/training purposes in class and practice settings or for demo of FSE at this time
Ensure all required cables and equipment are present in the patient room before application of the FSE	Do NOT apply FSE during a deceleration. It should only be applied if there is difficulty in picking up the FHR after a deceleration
Use IA when there is no indication for EFM	Do NOT overstock FSE in patient rooms

Please refer to the attached pre-insertion checklist when considering using FSEs.

If you have any questions, contact Perinatal Services BC at psbc@phsa.ca.

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