



TOOLKIT 20 • MATERNAL & NEWBORN • TOOL 4 OF 5

Partograph — One-Page Labour Record

Cervical dilatation against time, with the alert and action lines, fetal heart, contractions, maternal observations — the tool that detects obstructed labour in time

Name • age • gravida/para • hospital no. • date • time of admission
• membranes ruptured (time) • risk factors

Hours since active labour →	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Fetal heart rate (every 30 min) 180 / 160 / 140 / 120 / 100												
Liquor I intact • C clear • M meconium • B blood												
Moulding 0 / + / ++ / +++												
Cervix (cm) — plot X 10 / 9 / 8 / 7 / 6 / 5 / 4 ALERT line from 4 cm at 1 cm/h • ACTION line 4 h to the right												
Descent of head (fifths palpable) 5 / 4 / 3 / 2 / 1 / 0 — plot O												
Contractions per 10 min < 20 s █ 20–40 s █ > 40 s █												
Oxytocin U/L • drops/min												
Drugs and IV fluids												
Pulse • BP (every 30 min • every 4 h)												
Temperature (every 2 h)												
Urine protein • acetone • volume												

Reading it. Plot dilatation from 4 cm on the alert line. Progress to the right of the alert line: reassess — contractions, position, hydration, bladder; prepare for referral if not in a facility that can do a caesarean. Crossing the action line: obstructed or prolonged labour — senior review now; augmentation only where a caesarean is available; otherwise transfer.

Simplified from the WHO partograph (modified). The WHO Labour Care Guide (2020) may replace it where staff are trained in it.

ASF standards: Hospital Standard 4 — labour monitoring (means of verification: partograph in every labour record)