

## Decreased (Reduced) Fetal Movements

Unique Identifier	NMP200/SSM/099 - v02.00
Document Type	Guideline
Risk of non-compliance	may result in significant harm to the patient/DHB
Function	Clinical Practice, Patient Care
User Group(s)	Auckland DHB only
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation(s)</li> </ul>	Auckland District Health Board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directorate(s)</li> </ul>	Women's Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department(s)</li> </ul>	Maternity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used for which patients?</li> </ul>	All pregnant women greater than 28 weeks gestation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used by which staff?</li> </ul>	All clinicians in maternity including access holder lead maternity carers (LMCs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excluded</li> </ul>	
Keywords	Reduced fetal movements (RFM), decreased fetal movements (DFM), fetal activity; foetal movement
Author	Senior Medical Officer - Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Authorisation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owner</li> </ul>	Service Clinical Director - Secondary Maternity Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delegate / Issuer</li> </ul>	Senior Medical Officer - Obstetrics
Edited by	Document Control
First issued	19 February 2018
This version issued	08 March 2021 - issued
Review frequency	3 yearly

## Contents

1. Purpose of guideline .....	2
2. Guideline management principles and goals .....	2
3. Pathway for women presenting with decreased fetal movements (DFM) from 28 weeks' gestation .....	3
4. Supporting evidence .....	4
5. Associated documents.....	4
6. Disclaimer .....	4
7. Corrections and amendments .....	4

## 1. Purpose of guideline

The purpose of this guideline is to provide evidence-based advice to improve consistency in the management of pregnant women with decreased fetal movements (DFM).

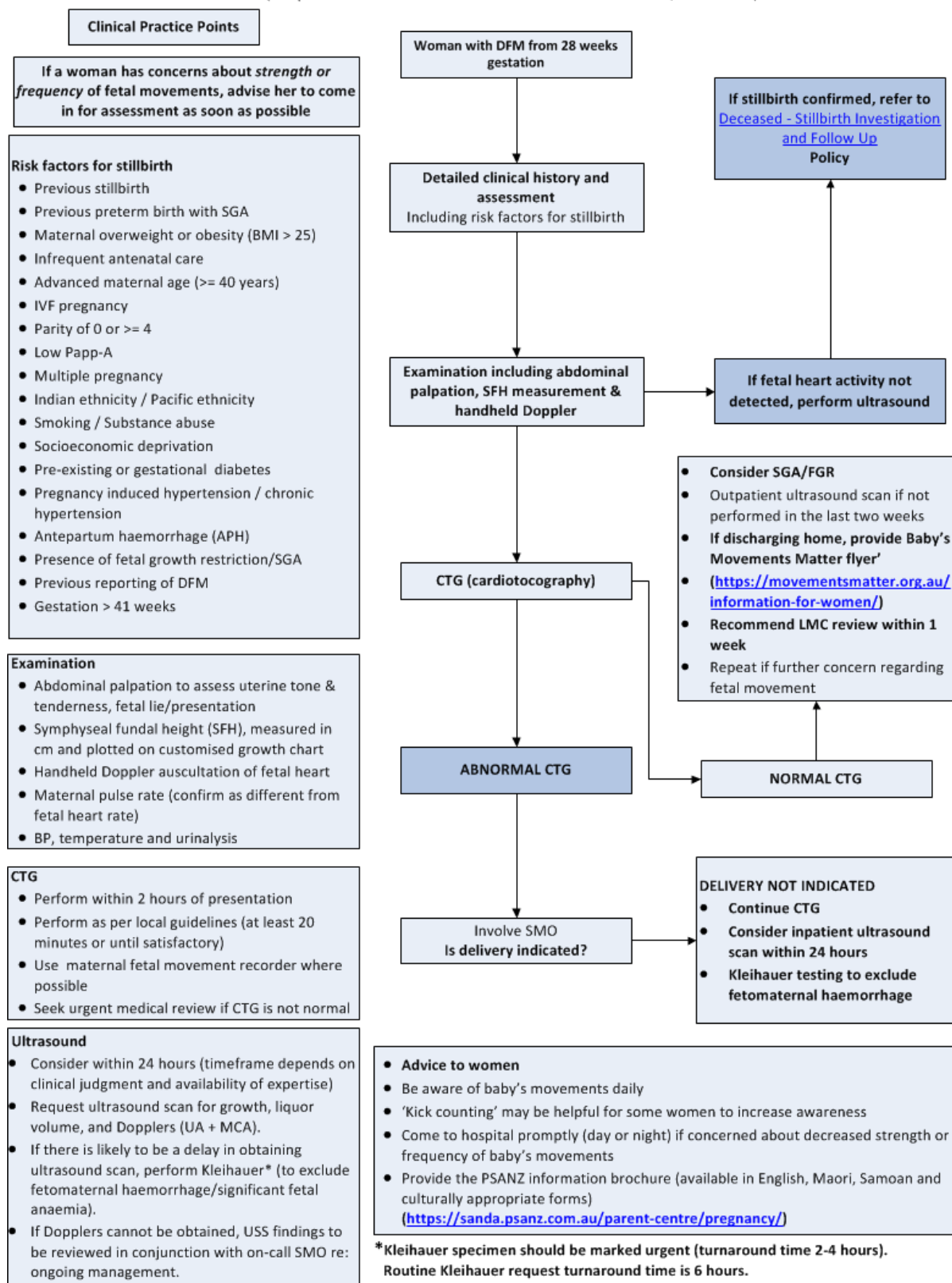
Note: although women do sometimes report changes in fetal movements without the movements being decreased, there is no clinical guidance available about this situation. Clinical discretion is advised.

## 2. Guideline management principles and goals

- Evidence-based approach
- Improved consistency in the management of women with DFM
- Assist clinicians to counsel women with DFM
- Reduce maternal anxiety about fetal activity and self-monitoring
- Aid in the identification of women with higher risk pregnancies
- Improve outcomes for pregnant women and their babies.

### 3. Pathway for women presenting with decreased fetal movements (DFM) from 28 weeks' gestation

**Pathway for women presenting to Auckland DHB with Decreased Fetal Movements (DFM) from 28 weeks' gestation**  
(adapted from PSANZ-SANDA Clinical Practice Guideline, June 2017)



## 4. Supporting evidence

- Daly, L.M., Gardener, G., Bowring, V., Burton, W., Chadha, Y., Ellwood, D., Frøen, F., Gordon, A., Heazell, A., Mahomed, K., McDonald, S., Norman, J.E., Oats, J. and Flenady, V. (2018). Care of pregnant women with decreased fetal movements: Update of a clinical practice guideline for Australia and New Zealand. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* 58 (4), 463-468. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajo.12762>

## 5. Associated documents

- Admission to Women's Assessment Unit (WAU)
- Deceased - Stillbirth Investigation and Follow Up
- Intrapartum Fetal Surveillance Policy

## 6. Disclaimer

No guideline can cover all variations required for specific circumstances. It is the responsibility of the health care practitioners using this Auckland DHB guideline to adapt it for safe use within their own institution, recognise the need for specialist help, and call for it without delay, when an individual patient falls outside of the boundaries of this guideline.

## 7. Corrections and amendments

The next scheduled review of this document is as per the document classification table (page 1). However, if the reader notices any errors or believes that the document should be reviewed **before** the scheduled date, they should contact the owner or [Document Control](#) without delay.