Three-Tiered Fetal Heart Rate Interpretation System

**Category I**

Category I FHR tracings include all of the following:
- **Baseline rate:** 110–160 beats per minute
- **Baseline FHR variability:** moderate
- **Late or variable decelerations:** absent
- **Early decelerations:** present or absent
- **Accelerations:** present or absent

**Category II**

Category II FHR tracings includes all FHR tracings not categorized as Category I or Category III. Category II tracings may represent an appreciable fraction of those encountered in clinical care.

Examples of Category II FHR tracings include any of the following:
- **Baseline rate**
  - Bradycardia not accompanied by absent baseline variability
  - Tachycardia
- **Baseline FHR variability**
  - **Minimal** baseline variability
  - **Absent** baseline variability with no recurrent decelerations
  - **Marked** baseline variability
- **Accelerations**
  - Absence of induced accelerations after fetal stimulation
- **Periodic or episodic decelerations**
  - Recurrent variable decelerations accompanied by minimal or moderate baseline variability
  - Prolonged deceleration more than 2 minutes but less than 10 minutes
  - Recurrent late decelerations with moderate baseline variability
  - Variable decelerations with other characteristics such as slow return to baseline, overshoots, or “shoulders”

**Category III**

Category III FHR tracings include either:
- **Absent baseline FHR variability** and any of the following:
  - Recurrent late decelerations
  - Recurrent variable decelerations
  - Bradycardia
- **Sinusoidal pattern**

Abbreviation: FHR, fetal heart rate