

## Decreased (Reduced) Fetal Movements

Document Type	Guideline
Function	Clinical Practice, Patient Care
Directorate(s)	Women's Health
Department(s) affected	Maternity
Applicable for which patients, clients or residents?	All pregnant women greater than 28 weeks gestation
Applicable for which staff members?	All clinicians in maternity including access holder lead maternity carers (LMCs)
Key words (not part of title)	Reduced fetal movements (RFM), decreased fetal movements (DFM), fetal activity; foetal movement
Author - role only	Senior Medical Officer - Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Owner (see <a href="#">ownership structure</a> )	Service Clinical Director - Secondary Maternity Services
Edited by	Clinical Policy Advisor
Date first published	19 February 2018
Date this version published	19 February 2018 - issued
Review frequency	3 yearly
Unique Identifier	NMP200/SSM/099 – v01.00

## Contents

1. [Purpose of guideline](#)
2. [Guideline management principles and goals](#)
3. [Pathway for women presenting to Auckland DHB with Decreased Fetal Movements \(DFM\) from 28 weeks' gestation](#)
4. [Supporting evidence](#)
5. [Associated Auckland DHB documents](#)
6. [Disclaimer](#)
7. [Corrections and amendments](#)

## 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).

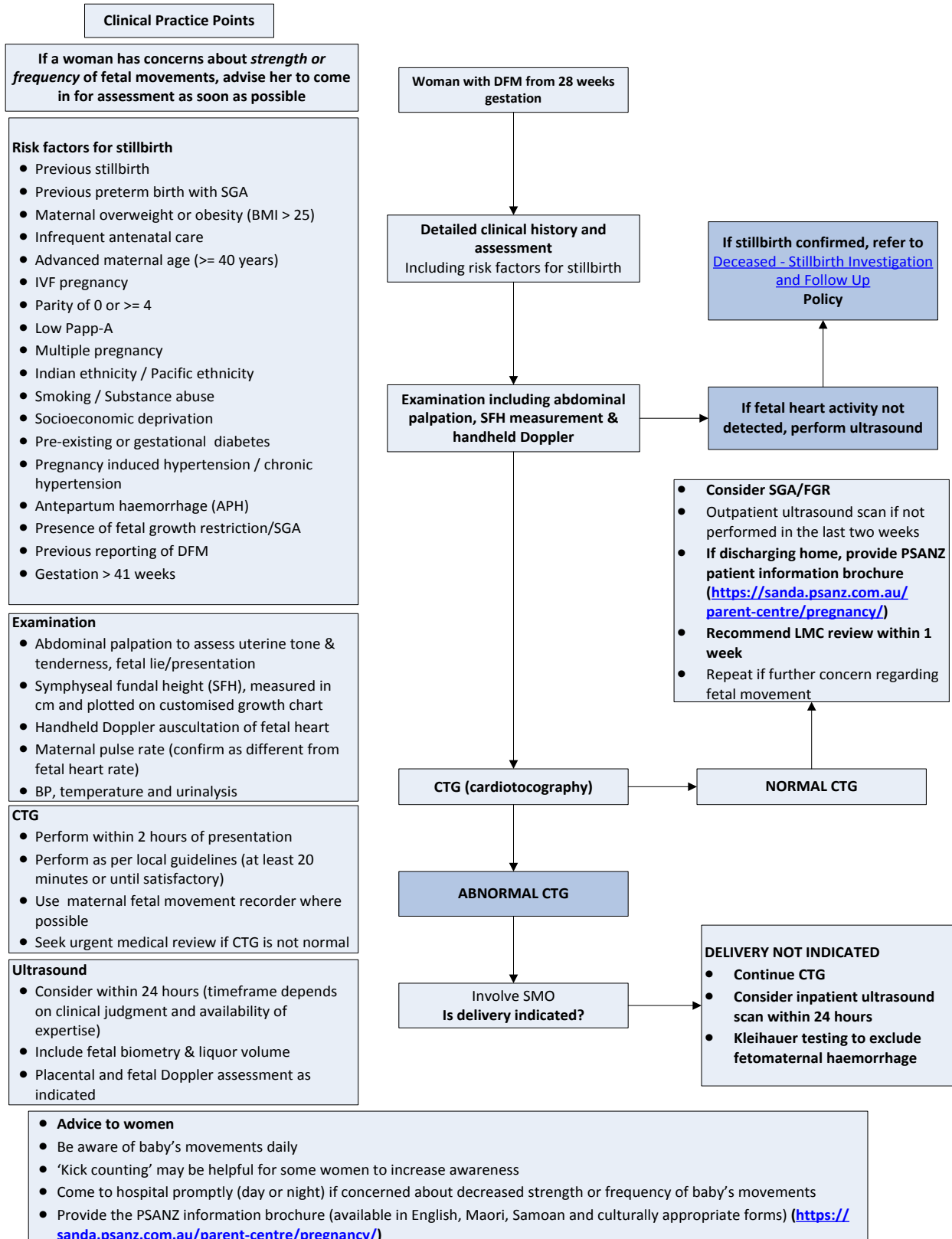
**Note:** although women do sometimes report changes in fetal movements without the movements being decreased, there is no clinical guidance available about this situation. Clinical discretion is advised.

## 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 to Auckland DHB 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

- Link to PSANZ-SANDA Clinical Practice Guideline for the Care of Women with Decreased Fetal Movements (<https://stillbirth.centre.uq.edu.au/files/1156/DFM-Clinical-Practice-Guideline-Update-June-2017.pdf>)

## 5. Associated Auckland DHB documents

- [Admission to Women's Assessment Unit \(WAU\)](#)
- [Deceased - Stillbirth Investigation and Follow Up](#)
- [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 the [Clinical Policy Advisor](#) without delay.