



Dear madam,

You recently has an image, known as a Cardiotocography or CTG, taken of your unborn baby's heart. Your maternity care provider is taking part in study about CTGs and in this letter we will inform you about this study.

Why are we doing this study?

Health care providers are constantly working to improve the quality of midwifery care. Important outcomes are the health of you and your child. Additionally, it is important to measure how you feel about your care. A recent development in midwifery care is that midwives are beginning to conduct CTGs. The goal of the CTG study is to evaluate the quality of the midwifery care provided, as well as your experiences, in regards to the CTG test.

What does this study mean for you?

To measure the health outcomes for you and your baby, we require access to your records regarding your current pregnancy and, eventually, the birth process. We kindly request your permission to utilize these records. If you agree to this, please complete and sign the consent form. In addition to the consent form, we also kindly request that you complete the questionnaire about your care before, during and after the CTG.

The consent form and questionnaire are separate components of our study. As such, you are not required to complete both of these components.

If you decide not to participate, or only to participate in one component, this will have absolutely no influence of the quality of care that you receive from your midwifery care provider. Additionally, even after you have given your consent to participate, you maintain the right to rescind this consent. If you wish to no longer participate in this study, please inform your midwifery care provider and/or one of the researchers involved in the CTG study (see below for contact information). You do not need to provide any reason as to why you wish to stop.

Who will carry out the study?

The CTG study is being completed by a partnership between the midwifery care providers of your health care region, as well as the researchers from the Midwifery Science department from the VU medical centre in Amsterdam and from the Midwifery Academy in Amsterdam and Groningen.

Security of private information

All data that will be collected for the CTG study will be handled in a secure manner. Collected data will be made anonymous before any analyses are carried out. Unauthorized individuals will have no access to your personal information. Any publications about this study will not include your name. Data will be kept and maintained for a maximum of 15 years.

Participation

We would greatly appreciate your permission to use your records for the CTG study, as well as your participation in the questionnaire. Your participation in this study will increase the knowledge about midwifery care and will help us to further improve the quality of this care.

If you are uncertain or would like more information, please feel free to contact our head researcher, Dr. Corine Verhoeven. She is available at 020-4448406 or via c.verhoeven@vumc.nl.