

**Table 22.** NICHD Fetal Heart Rate Classification<sup>277</sup>

NICHD Fetal Heart Rate Classification			
	Category I (includes all of the following criteria)	Category II (includes any of the following criteria)	Category III
Baseline rate	110-160 BPM	Bradycardia without absent baseline variability Tachycardia	Absent variability WITH any of the following: • bradycardia • recurrent late decelerations • recurrent variable decelerations Or Sinusoidal pattern
Baseline FHR variability	Moderate	Minimal Absent, without recurrent decelerations Marked	
Late or variable decelerations	Absent	Recurrent variable decelerations with minimal or moderate variability Prolonged deceleration >2min but <10 min Recurrent late decelerations with moderate variability Variable decelerations with other characteristics such as slow return to baseline, overshoots, or "shoulders"	
Early decelerations	Present or absent		
Accelerations	Present or absent	Absence of induced accelerations after fetal stimulation	