

# Cardiac rhythm interpretation flipbook

## Unmet Need

Nurses caring for patients who require ECG monitoring are trained in rhythm interpretation in order to identify normal and abnormal cardiac conditions and to apply appropriate therapeutic interventions. However, studies have shown a significant decrease in the skills and knowledge nurses possess in rhythm interpretation within one to two months of completing initial training. This could lead to false diagnosis and detrimental patient outcomes, emphasizing the need for an educational tool for nurses that ensures retention of rhythm interpretation skills and maintains ECG competency.

## Technology

In order to maintain rhythm interpretation knowledge, a flipbook based on AHA practical standards has been prepared at Duke to guide nurses through the process of identifying normal and abnormal cardiac conditions using ECG rhythm strips. The flipbook comprises a step-by-step guide for interpreting ECG and provides criteria for determining abnormal conditions including, but not limited to, arrhythmias, fibrillation, ectopy and blocks. In addition, the flipbook includes a short guide on patient skin care and electrode placement.

## Advantages

- Short and concise
- Easy to understand and follow
- Ensures rhythm interpretation skill retention
- Potentially reduce frequency and cost of organizing training workshops for nurses
- Reduces costs associated with wrong diagnoses and unsuitable interventions
- Improves patient outcome

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