

Fetal Cardiac Program Counseling Checklist

Ward Family Heart Center

Elizabeth J. Ferrell Fetal Health Center

Cardiac Anatomy and Physiology

- Normal and fetal cardiac anatomy/physiology
- Specific cardiac diagnosis anatomy/physiology
- Diagnostic uncertainty and echo limitations
- Cardiac disease etiology

Extracardiac Issues

- Diagnosed extracardiac fetal abnormalities, interaction with CHD
- Undiagnosed associated extracardiac anomalies
- Known genetic associations

Pregnancy Counseling

- Location, timing and mode of delivery
- Expectations for the rest of gestation
- Risk for hydrops or intrauterine demise
- Outcome of delivering preterm
 - Hybrid

Immediate Postnatal Management

- Immediate postnatal stabilization and management
- Umbilical lines and possible intubation
- Prostaglandins
- Expected immediate postnatal cath/surgery interventions

Neonatal Management

- Monitoring
- Medications
- Nutrition
- NICU parent/visitor policies

Surgical Planning

- Details of expected surgery/cath intervention
- Transparency: Survival and outcomes
- Timing of intervention
- Possible complications of intervention
- Ventilator support
- Inotropic medications
- Drains
- Open chest
- Possible blood transfusions
- ECMO

Post-Surgical Management

- ICU and floor goals with estimated length of stay
- Other possible medical issues (need for NGT, g-tube, malrotation)
- Predicted discharge medications
- Home nursing and home monitoring

Other System Issues

- ENT- vocal cord dysfunction
- Hematology- clots/bleeding
- EP- arrhythmias, pacemaker

Longer-Term Issues

- Subsequent surgeries/interventions expected
- Long-term cardiology follow-up needs
- Long-term medications
- Physical limitations/restrictions
- Neurocognitive outcomes/CND Clinic
- Projected life expectancy
- Possible cardiac transplant

Family Issues/Education

- Acute and long-term housing needs
- Financial effect of special-needs child on family
- Social impact of special-needs child on family
- Genetic implications for future family planning
- Community family support groups
- Connection to other CHD families
- Introduction to research

Consults

- Neonatology _____
- Social Work _____
- CV Surgeon _____
- PACT _____
- Genetics _____
- CHAMP _____
- Tour: FHC/NICU/PICU/4S _____

Education Materials

- Fetal Cardiology Folder
- Neonatology Folder
- Little Heart Pack
- Sisters by Heart

If you have questions, please contact the Fetal Cardiac team at fetalcardio@cmh.edu.