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# Onset of labour

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**Important note: This is an archived metadata standard from the AIHW Knowledgebase. For current metadata standards and related information please access METeOR, the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry at <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au>**

## *Identifying and Definitional Attributes*

Data Dictionary: NHDD  
Knowledgebase ID: 000113                      Version number: 2  
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT  
Registration Authority: NHIMG                      Admin status: SUPERSEDED  
Effective date: 01-MAR-05  
Definition: Manner in which labour started.  
Context: Perinatal care:  
How labour commenced is closely associated with method of birth and maternal and neonatal morbidity. Induction rates vary for maternal risk factors and obstetric complications and are important indicators of obstetric intervention.

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## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype: Numeric  
Representational form: CODE  
Representation layout: N  
Minimum Size: 1  
Maximum Size: 1  
Data Domain: 1                      Spontaneous  
                  2                      Induced  
                  3                      No labour  
                  4                      Not stated  
Guide For Use: Labour commences at the onset of regular uterine contractions, which act to produce progressive cervical dilatation, and is distinct from spurious labour or pre-labour rupture of membranes.  
Verification Rules: 'No labour' can only be associated with caesarean section.  
Collection Methods: If prostaglandins were given to induce labour and there is no resulting labour until after 24 hours, then code the onset of labour as spontaneous.

Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Onset of labour version 1  
is used in conjunction with Type of labour induction version 1  
is used in conjunction with Method of birth version 1

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### *Administrative Attributes*

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National Perinatal Data Development Committee

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### *Data Element Links*

#### *Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element*

NHIM Birth event

#### *Data Agreements which include this Data Element*

NMDS - Perinatal From 01-Jul-00 to

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