

Female—postpartum perineal status, code N[N]

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Postpartum perineal status
METEOR identifier:	717924
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Health, Superseded 03/12/2020
Definition:	The state of a female's perineum following birth, as represented by a code.
Context:	Perinatal
Data Element Concept:	Female—postpartum perineal status

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code																
Data type:	Number																
Format:	N[N]																
Maximum character length:	2																
Permissible values:	<table><thead><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1</td><td>Intact</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>1st degree laceration/vaginal graze</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>2nd degree laceration</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>3rd degree laceration</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>Episiotomy</td></tr><tr><td>7</td><td>4th degree laceration</td></tr><tr><td>88</td><td>Other perineal laceration, rupture or tear</td></tr></tbody></table>	Value	Meaning	1	Intact	2	1st degree laceration/vaginal graze	3	2nd degree laceration	4	3rd degree laceration	5	Episiotomy	7	4th degree laceration	88	Other perineal laceration, rupture or tear
Value	Meaning																
1	Intact																
2	1st degree laceration/vaginal graze																
3	2nd degree laceration																
4	3rd degree laceration																
5	Episiotomy																
7	4th degree laceration																
88	Other perineal laceration, rupture or tear																
Supplementary values:	<table><thead><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>99</td><td>Not stated/inadequately described</td></tr></tbody></table>	Value	Meaning	99	Not stated/inadequately described												
Value	Meaning																
99	Not stated/inadequately described																

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:**CODE 1 Intact**

Should not be recorded in conjunction with any other code.

CODE 2 1st degree laceration/vaginal graze

Graze, laceration, rupture or tear of the perineal skin during delivery that may be considered to be slight or that involves one or more of the following structures:

- fourchette
- labia
- periurethral tissue (excluding involvement of urethra)
- vagina, low
- skin
- vulva.

Should not be recorded in conjunction with any other code except for Code 5 (Episiotomy).

CODE 3 2nd degree laceration

Perineal laceration, rupture or tear as in Code 2 occurring during delivery, also involving:

- pelvic floor
- perineal muscles
- vaginal muscles.

Excludes laceration involving the anal sphincter. Should not be recorded in conjunction with any other code except for Code 5 (Episiotomy).

CODE 4 3rd degree laceration

Perineal laceration, rupture or tear as in Code 3 occurring during delivery, also involving:

- anal sphincter (excluding involvement of anal or rectal mucosa)
- rectovaginal septum
- sphincter not otherwise specified (NOS).

Excludes laceration involving the anal or rectal mucosa. Should not be recorded in conjunction with any other code except for Code 5 (Episiotomy).

CODE 7 4th degree laceration

Perineal laceration, rupture or tear as in Code 4 occurring during delivery, also involving:

- anal mucosa
- rectal mucosa.

Should not be recorded in conjunction with any other code except for Code 5 (Episiotomy).

CODE 88 Other perineal laceration, rupture or tear

May include haematoma or unspecified perineal tear. Should not be recorded in conjunction with any other code except for Code 5 (Episiotomy).

Comments:

If a laceration occurred during delivery and an episiotomy was performed, both the degree of laceration and the episiotomy should be recorded. If an episiotomy is performed, the perineum cannot be intact.

While 4th degree laceration is more severe than an episiotomy, this category has not been placed in order of clinical significance within the value domain.

Code 6 has been omitted as it is no longer in use. For information about its meaning in previous data elements, see superseded versions.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Origin: ACCD (Australian Consortium for Classification Development) 2019. The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM), 11th edn. Tabular list and Alphabetic index. Darlinghurst, NSW: Independent Hospital Pricing Authority.

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: More than one permissible value may be recorded.

Comments: Perineal laceration (tear) may cause significant maternal morbidity in the postnatal period. Episiotomy is an indicator of management during labour and, to some extent, of obstetric intervention.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Female—postpartum perineal status, code N\[N\]](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 20/11/2019

Has been superseded by [Female—postpartum perineal status, code N\[N\]](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 17/12/2021

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Perinatal NMDS 2020–21](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 03/12/2020

Implementation start date: 01/07/2020

Implementation end date: 30/06/2021

DSS specific information:

This is a multiple response data element and is therefore operationalised for data collection across 7 individual data items (one data item per permissible value, excluding Code 99 (Not stated/inadequately described)).

Implementation in Indicators:

Used as Numerator

[National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 03—Episiotomy for females giving birth for the first time and giving birth vaginally, 2022](#) [Health](#), Standard 09/09/2022

[National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 13—Third and fourth degree tears for vaginal births, 2022](#) [Health](#), Standard 09/09/2022

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2015–2023

This product, excluding the AIHW logo, Commonwealth Coat of Arms and any material owned by a third party or protected by a trademark, has been released under a Creative Commons BY 3.0 (CC BY 3.0) licence. Excluded material owned by third parties may include, for example, design and layout, images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. We have made all reasonable efforts to identify and label material owned by third parties.

You may distribute, remix and build upon this work. However, you must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder of the work in compliance with our attribution policy available at www.aihw.gov.au/copyright. The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by3.0/au/>.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to the Head of the Communications, Media and Marketing Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601.