

# Third and Fourth Degree Perineal Tears Clinical Care Standard: 4e-Proportion of women who had a vaginal birth who sustained a fourth degree perineal tear

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Indicator
<b>Indicator type:</b>	Indicator
<b>Short name:</b>	4e-Proportion of women who had a vaginal birth who sustained a fourth degree perineal tear
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	728514
<b>Registration status:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care</a>, Qualified 20/04/2021</li></ul>
<b>Description:</b>	The proportion of women who had a vaginal birth who sustained a fourth degree perineal tear.
<b>Indicator set:</b>	<a href="#">Clinical care standard indicators: Third and Fourth Degree Perineal Tears Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care</a> , Standard 20/04/2021

## Collection and usage attributes

<b>Population group age from:</b>	18 yrs or older
<b>Computation description:</b>	The degree of perineal injury should be classified using the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) classification of perineal tears.

### RCOG classification of perineal tears

Degree of perineal tear	Grade	Description
First degree		Injury to perineal skin and/or vaginal mucosa
Second degree		Injury to perineum involving perineal muscles but not involving the anal sphincter
Third degree		Injury to perineum involving the anal sphincter complex
	3a	Less than 50% of external anal sphincter(EAS) thickness torn
	3b	More than 50% of EAS thickness torn
	3c	Both EAS and internal anal sphincter (IAS) torn
Fourth degree		Injury to perineum involving the anal sphincter complex (EAS and IAS) and anorectal mucosa.

Presented as a percentage.

**Computation:** (Numerator ÷ Denominator) x 100

**Numerator:** Number of women who sustained a fourth degree tear.  
Include separations where the ICD code for fourth degree laceration was recorded (Table A).

**Table A: ICD-10-AM code for fourth degree laceration**

Code	Description
O70.3	Fourth degree perineal laceration during delivery

**Denominator:** The number of women who had a vaginal birth.  
Include separations where an outcome of delivery was record using the ICD codes in Table A, and a caesarean delivery was not recorded (Table B).

**Table A: ICD-10-AM codes for delivery outcome**

Code	Description
Z37.0	Single live birth
Z37.1	Single stillbirth
Z37.2	Twins, both liveborn
Z37.3	Twins, one liveborn and one stillborn
Z37.4	Twins, both stillborn
Z37.5	Other multiple births, all liveborn
Z37.6	Other multiple births, some liveborn
Z37.7	Other multiple births, all stillborn
Z37.9	Outcome of delivery, unspecified

**Table B: ACHI codes for caesarean section**

Code	Description
16520-00	Elective classical caesarean section
16520-01	Emergency classical caesarean section
16520-02	Elective lower segment caesarean section
16520-03	Emergency lower segment caesarean section
16520-04	Elective caesarean section, not elsewhere classified
16520-05	Emergency caesarean section, not elsewhere classified

## Representational attributes

**Representation class:** Percentage  
**Data type:** Real  
**Unit of measure:** Person  
**Format:** N[NN]

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

**Reference documents:**

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care 2021. Third and Fourth Degree Perineal Tears clinical care standard. Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Sydney.

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists 2015. The management of third- and fourth-degree perineal tears (Green top 29). Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, London.