

Hypertensive disorder during pregnancy

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Hypertensive disorder during pregnancy

Identifying and definitional attributes

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Definition: Hypertensive disorder during pregnancy includes pre-existing hypertensive disorders, hypertension arising in pregnancy and associated disorders such as eclampsia and preeclampsia.

Hypertension in pregnancy is defined as:

1. Systolic blood pressure greater than or equal to 140 mmHg and/or
2. Diastolic blood pressure greater than or equal to 90 mmHg.

Measurements should be confirmed by repeated readings over several hours. Elevations of both systolic and diastolic blood pressures have been associated with adverse fetal outcome and therefore both are important.

Disorders associated with hypertension such as eclampsia and preeclampsia are further characterised by symptoms such as proteinuria, oedema or high body temperature.

There are several reasons to support the blood pressure readings defined above as diagnostic of hypertension in pregnancy:

- perinatal mortality rises with diastolic blood pressures above 90 mmHg
- readings above this level were beyond two standard deviations of mean blood pressure in a New Zealand cohort of normal pregnant women
- the chosen levels are consistent with international guidelines and correspond with the current diagnosis of hypertension outside of pregnancy.

This definition of hypertensive disorder in pregnancy from the Society of Obstetric Medicine in Australia and New Zealand (SOMANZ) (Lowe et al. 2014) aligns with the definition of the International Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy (ISSHP).

Source and reference attributes

Reference documents: Lowe SA, Bowyer L, Lust K, McMahon LP, Morton MR, North RA et al. 2014. Guideline for the management of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy. Society of Obstetric Medicine of Australia and New Zealand. Viewed 18 September 2020, https://ranzocg.edu.au/RANZCOG_SITE/media/RANZCOG-MEDIA/Women%27s%20Health/SOMANZ-Hypertension-Pregnancy-Guideline-April-2014.pdf?ext=.pdf

Brown M, Lindheimer M, Swiet M, Assche A and Moutquin J-M 2001. The classification and diagnosis of the hypertensive disorders of pregnancy: statement from the International Society for the Study of Hypertension in Pregnancy (ISSHP). Hypertension in pregnancy 20(1), ix-xiv.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Hypertensive disorder during pregnancy](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 03/12/2020

**Metadata items which use
this glossary item:**

[Female—hypertensive disorder during pregnancy indicator](#)

Health, Standard 03/12/2020

[Female—hypertensive disorder during pregnancy indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N](#)

Health, Superseded 09/09/2022

[Female—hypertensive disorder during pregnancy indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N](#)

Health, Standard 09/09/2022

[Female—type of hypertensive disorder during pregnancy](#)

Health, Standard 03/12/2020

[Female—type of hypertensive disorder during pregnancy, code N](#)

Health, Superseded 09/09/2022

[Female—type of hypertensive disorder during pregnancy, code N](#)

Health, Standard 09/09/2022

[Hypertensive disorder during pregnancy indicator](#)

Health, Standard 03/12/2020

[Perinatal NBEDS 2021–22](#)

Health, Superseded 17/12/2021

[Perinatal NBEDS 2022–23](#)

Health, Superseded 09/12/2022

[Perinatal NBEDS 2023–24](#)

Health, Superseded 06/12/2023

[Perinatal NBEDS 2024–25](#)

Health, Standard 06/12/2023

[Perinatal NMDS 2021–22](#)

Health, Superseded 17/12/2021

[Perinatal NMDS 2022–23](#)

Health, Superseded 09/12/2022

[Perinatal NMDS 2023–24](#)

Health, Superseded 06/12/2023

[Perinatal NMDS 2024–25](#)

Health, Standard 06/12/2023

[Type of hypertensive disorder during pregnancy](#)

Health, Standard 03/12/2020

[Type of hypertensive disorder during pregnancy code N](#)

Health, Superseded 09/09/2022

[Type of hypertensive disorder during pregnancy code N](#)

Health, Standard 09/09/2022