

Perinatal NBEDS 2022–23

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Perinatal NBEDS 2022–23

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Set Specification
METEOR identifier:	742055
Registration status:	Health , Superseded 09/12/2022
DSS type:	Data Set Specification (DSS)
Scope:	<p>The scope of the Perinatal national best endeavours data set (NBEDS) is all births in Australia in hospitals, birth centres and the community. The data set includes information on all births, both live births and stillbirths, of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 grams birthweight.</p> <p>These data have two dimensions, which are the baby and the mother. All data relevant to the birth are conveyed in relation to one of these.</p>

Collection and usage attributes

Statistical unit:	<p>As there are two dimensions to the data, there are two statistical units:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mother (Female)2. Baby (Product of birth). <p>In the case of multiple births, data are collected once for each mother and once for each baby.</p>
Guide for use:	<p>This NBEDS is intended as an interim standard only. If jurisdictions are able to report the data elements then they should do so. It is expected that the data elements will be included as mandatory data elements in future Perinatal national minimum data sets (NMDS).</p>
Collection methods:	<p>National reporting arrangements:</p> <p>State and territory health authorities provide the data to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for national collation, on an annual basis.</p> <p>Periods for which data are collected:</p> <p>Financial year ending 30 June each year.</p>
Implementation start date:	01/07/2022
Implementation end date:	30/06/2023

Comments: The terms 'product of birth' and 'baby', and 'mother' and 'female' are used interchangeably throughout the NBEDS.

Glossary terms that are relevant to this NBEDS include:

[Anaesthesia during birth event](#)

[Analgesia during birth event](#)

[Antenatal care visit](#)

[Birthweight](#)

[Family violence](#)

[Gestational diabetes mellitus](#)

[Hospital-in-the-home care](#)

[Hypertensive disorder during pregnancy](#)

[Live birth](#)

[Primary postpartum haemorrhage](#)

[Registered nurse](#)

[Screening](#)

[Separation](#)

[Stillbirth \(fetal death\)](#)

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Perinatal NBEDS 2021–22 Health](#), Superseded 17/12/2021
Has been superseded by [Perinatal NBEDS 2023–24 Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023
See also [Perinatal Mortality NBEDS 2022–23 Health](#), Superseded 07/02/2023

Metadata items in this Data Set Specification

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Perinatal NMDS 2022–23	Mandatory	1
-	Birth event—actual setting of birth, code N	Mandatory	1

DSS specific information:

Used to analyse the risk factors and outcomes by place of birth. While most births occur within hospitals, an increasing number of births now occur in other settings. It is important to monitor the births occurring outside hospitals and to ascertain whether or not the actual place of birth was planned.

If a jurisdiction is unable to record this data element for each baby in a multiple birth then the place of birth of the first-born baby should be recorded.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Birth event—anaesthesia administered indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>This data element is only to be recorded if the response to the Birth event—birth method, code N data element is Code 2 (Vaginal—forceps), Code 4 (Caesarean section) or Code 5 (Vaginal—vacuum extraction).</p>		
-	Birth event—analgesia administered indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>This data element is only to be recorded if the response to the Birth event—labour onset type, code N data element is Code 1 (Spontaneous) or Code 2 (Induced).</p>		
-	Birth event—birth method, code N	Mandatory	1
	<p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>In the case of multiple births, this data element should be recorded for each baby born.</p>		
-	Birth event—birth presentation, code N	Mandatory	1
	<p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>In the case of multiple births, this data element should be recorded for each baby born.</p>		
-	Birth event—labour induction method, code N[N]	Conditional	6
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>The data element is only to be recorded if the response to the Birth event—labour onset type, code N data element is Code 2 (Induced).</p>		
-	Birth event—labour onset type, code N	Mandatory	1
	<p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>This data element is recorded for the mother only.</p>		
-	Birth event—state/territory of birth, code N	Mandatory	1
	<p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This data element is recorded for the mother only.</p>		

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Birth event—type of anaesthesia administered, code N[N]	Conditional	7
<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>This data element is only to be recorded if the response to the Birth event—birth method, code N data element is Code 2 (Vaginal—forceps), Code 4 (Caesarean section) or Code 5 (Vaginal—vacuum extraction) and Birth event—anaesthesia administered indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N data element is Code 1 (Yes).</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This data element does not include the removal of the placenta.</p> <p>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)).</p>			
-	Birth event—type of analgesia administered, code N[N]	Conditional	6
<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>This data element is only to be recorded if the response to the Birth event—labour onset type, code N data element is Code 1 (Spontaneous) or Code 2 (Induced) and the Birth event—analgesia administered indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N data element is Code 1 (Yes).</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This data element is to be recorded for first and second stage labour, but not for third stage labour, e.g. removal of placenta.</p> <p>This is a multiple response data element and is therefore operationalised for data collection across 6 individual data items (one data item per permissible value, excluding Code 99 (Not stated/inadequately described)).</p>			
-	Episode of admitted patient care—separation date, DDMMYYYY	Conditional	2
<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>This data element is only to be recorded if the response to the Birth event—actual setting of birth, code N data element is Code 1 (Hospital, excluding birth centre), Code 2 (Birth centre, attached to hospital) or Code 3 (Birth centre, free standing).</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>For the provision of state and territory hospital data to Australian Government agencies this field must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be ≤ last day of financial year • be ≥ first day of financial year • be ≥ admission date <p>This data element is recorded once for the mother and once for the baby. In the case of multiple births, this data element should be recorded for each baby born.</p>			

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs						
-	Establishment—organisation identifier (Australian), NNX[X]NNNNN DSS specific information: This data element is recorded for the mother only. The following code has been agreed by the National Perinatal Data Development Committee (NPDDC) as a supplementary code for use in the Perinatal NMDS: <table border="1"><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr><tr><td>999999997</td><td>Not applicable</td></tr><tr><td>999999999</td><td>Not stated</td></tr></table>	Value	Meaning	999999997	Not applicable	999999999	Not stated	Mandatory	1
Value	Meaning								
999999997	Not applicable								
999999999	Not stated								
-	Female—caesarean section at most recent previous birth indicator, yes/no/not applicable/not stated/inadequately described code N DSS specific information: This data element is recorded for the mother only.	Mandatory	1						
-	Female—diabetes mellitus during pregnancy indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N DSS specific information: It is acceptable for jurisdictions to report only Code 1, Yes and Code 9, Not stated/inadequately described against this item. This data element is recorded for the mother only.	Mandatory	1						
-	Female—hypertensive disorder during pregnancy indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N DSS specific information: It is acceptable for jurisdictions to report only Code 1, Yes and Code 9, Not stated/inadequately described against this item. This data element is recorded for the mother only.	Mandatory	1						
-	Female—number of antenatal care visits, total N[N] DSS specific information: This data element is recorded for the mother only.	Mandatory	1						
-	Female—number of tobacco cigarettes smoked per day after 20 weeks of pregnancy, total N[NN] Conditional obligation: The data element is only to be recorded if the response to the Female—tobacco smoking after 20 weeks of pregnancy indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N data element is Code 1 (Yes). DSS specific information: This data element is recorded for the mother only.	Conditional	1						

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs				
-	Female—parity, total pregnancies N[N]	Mandatory	1				
	DSS specific information: This data element is recorded for the mother only.						
-	Female—postpartum perineal status, code N[N]	Mandatory	2				
	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)). This data element is recorded for the mother only.						
-	Female—tobacco smoking after 20 weeks of pregnancy indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N	Mandatory	1				
	DSS specific information: This data element is recorded for the mother only.						
-	Female—tobacco smoking in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N	Mandatory	1				
	DSS specific information: This data element is recorded for the mother only.						
-	Person—area of usual residence, statistical area level 2 (SA2) code (ASGS Edition 3) N(9)	Mandatory	1				
	DSS specific information: This data element is recorded for the mother only. The following code has been agreed by the National Perinatal Data Development Committee (NPDDC) as a supplementary code for use in the Perinatal NMDS:						
	<table><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr><tr><td>999999999</td><td>Not stated/inadequately described</td></tr></table>	Value	Meaning	999999999	Not stated/inadequately described		
Value	Meaning						
999999999	Not stated/inadequately described						
-	Person—country of birth, code (SACC 2016) NNNN	Mandatory	1				
	DSS specific information: This data element is recorded for the mother only.						
-	Person—date of birth, DDMMYYYY	Mandatory	2				
	DSS specific information: This data element is recorded once for the mother and once for the baby. In the case of multiple births, this data element should be recorded for each baby born.						

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs				
-	Person—Indigenous status, code N	Mandatory	2				
	DSS specific information: This data element is recorded once for the mother and once for the baby. In the case of multiple births, this data element should be recorded for each baby born.						
-	Person—person identifier, XXXXXX[X(14)]	Mandatory	2				
	DSS specific information: This data element is recorded once for the mother and once for the baby. In the case of multiple births, this data element should be recorded for each baby born.						
-	Person—sex, code X	Mandatory	1				
	DSS specific information: This data element is recorded for the baby only. In the case of multiple births, this data element should be recorded for each baby born.						
-	Pregnancy—birth plurality, code N	Mandatory	1				
	DSS specific information: This data element is recorded for the mother only.						
-	Pregnancy—estimated duration of pregnancy at the first antenatal care visit, total completed weeks N[N]	Mandatory	1				
	DSS specific information: This data element is recorded for the mother only. The following code has been agreed by the National Perinatal Data Development Committee (NPDDC) as a supplementary code for use in the Perinatal NMDS:						
	<table><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr><tr><td>99</td><td>Not stated/inadequately described</td></tr></table>			Value	Meaning	99	Not stated/inadequately described
Value	Meaning						
99	Not stated/inadequately described						
-	Product of birth—active resuscitation indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N	Mandatory	1				
-	Product of birth—active resuscitation method, code N[N]	Conditional	7				
	Conditional obligation: The data element is only to be recorded if the response to the Product of birth—active resuscitation indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N data element is Code 1 (Yes).						

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Product of birth—Apgar score at 5 minutes, code NN	Mandatory	1
	<p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>In the case of multiple births, this data element should be recorded for each baby born.</p>		
-	Product of birth—birth order, code N	Mandatory	1
	<p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>Birth order is only assigned to births that are in scope for the Perinatal NMDS (i.e. births of at least 20 weeks gestation or 400 grams birthweight). In the case of multiple pregnancies, if one or more fetuses were removed from the mother's uterus before 20 weeks gestation, for example, by abortion (spontaneous, induced or fetal reduction), they are not considered in the assignment of birth order for any remaining fetuses that are born. For example, in a twin pregnancy, where one fetus is aborted before 20 weeks gestation, no birth order would be recorded for that twin. If the remaining twin is born and is in scope for the Perinatal NMDS, then their birth order would be recorded as Code 1 (Singleton or first of a multiple birth). If both twins are born and are in scope for the Perinatal NMDS, the first twin would be assigned a birth order of Code 1 (Singleton or first of a multiple birth) and the second twin would be assigned a birth order of Code 2 (Second of a multiple birth).</p> <p>In the case of multiple births, this data element should be recorded for each baby born.</p>		
-	Product of birth—birth status, code N	Mandatory	1
	<p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>Essential to analyse outcome of pregnancy.</p> <p>In the case of multiple births, this data element should be recorded for each baby born.</p>		
-	Product of birth—birthweight, total grams N[NNN]	Mandatory	1
	<p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>Weight is an important indicator of pregnancy outcome, is a major risk factor for neonatal morbidity and mortality and is required to analyse perinatal services for high-risk infants.</p> <p>In the case of multiple births, this data element should be recorded for each baby born.</p>		

- [Product of conception—gestational age, total completed weeks N\[N\]](#)

Mandatory 1

DSS specific information:

The first day of the last menstrual period (LMP) is required to estimate gestational age, which is a key marker in pregnancy and an important risk factor for neonatal outcomes. Although the date of the LMP may not be known, or may sometimes be erroneous, estimation of gestational age based on clinical assessment may also be inaccurate. Gestational age is usually estimated based on available information on LMP and clinical assessment.

In the case of multiple births, this data element should be recorded for each baby born.

The following code has been agreed by the National Perinatal Data Development Committee (NPDDC) as a supplementary code for use in the Perinatal NMDS:

Value	Meaning
99	Not stated/inadequately described

- [Birth event—additional indication for caesarean section, code N\[N\]](#)

Conditional 2

Conditional obligation:

This data element is only to be recorded if the response to the [Birth event—birth method, code N](#) data element is Code 4 (Caesarean section).

This data element is also conditional on the [Birth event—main indication for caesarean section, code N\[N\]](#) data element being completed and on there being more than one reason for which a caesarean was performed.

DSS specific information:

This data element is recorded for the mother only.

- [Birth event—additional indication for induction of labour, code N\[N\]](#)

Conditional 2

Conditional obligation:

This data element is only to be recorded if the response to the [Birth event—labour onset type, code N](#) data element is Code 2 (Induced).

This data element is also conditional on the [Birth event—main indication for induction of labour, code N\[N\]](#) data element being completed and on there being more than one reason for which an induction was performed.

DSS specific information:

This data element is recorded for the mother only.

- [Birth event—main indication for caesarean section, code N\[N\]](#)

Conditional 1

Conditional obligation:

This data element is only to be recorded if the response to the [Birth event—birth method, code N](#) data element is Code 4 (Caesarean section).

DSS specific information:

This data element is recorded for the mother only.

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Birth event—main indication for induction of labour, code N[N]	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>This data element is only to be recorded if the response to the Birth event—labour onset type, code N data element is Code 2 (Induced).</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This data element is recorded for the mother only.</p>		
-	Female—alcohol consumption after 20 weeks of pregnancy indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N	Mandatory	1
	<p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This data element is recorded for the mother only.</p>		
-	Female—alcohol consumption frequency after 20 weeks of pregnancy, code N	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>This data element is only to be recorded if the response to the Female—alcohol consumption after 20 weeks of pregnancy indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N data element is Code 1 (Yes).</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This data element is recorded for the mother only.</p>		
-	Female—alcohol consumption frequency in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy, code N	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>This data element is only to be recorded if the response to the Female—alcohol consumption in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N data element is Code 1 (Yes).</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This data element is recorded for the mother only.</p>		
-	Female—alcohol consumption in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N	Mandatory	1
	<p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This data element is recorded for the mother only.</p>		
-	Female—antenatal mental health risk screening status, code N	Mandatory	1
	<p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This data element is recorded for the mother only.</p>		

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Female—estimated blood loss indicating primary postpartum haemorrhage, estimated blood loss volume category code N	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>This data element is conditional on Female—primary postpartum haemorrhage indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N being coded to Yes.</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This data element is recorded for the mother only.</p>		
-	Female—indication of possible symptoms of depression at an antenatal care visit, Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale score code N[N]	Mandatory	1
	<p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This data element is recorded for the mother only.</p>		
-	Female—influenza vaccination during pregnancy indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N	Mandatory	1
	<p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This data element is recorded for the mother only.</p>		
-	Female—maternity model of care at the onset of labour or non-labour caesarean section, identifier NNNNNN	Mandatory	1
	<p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This data element is recorded for the mother only.</p>		
-	Female—number of standard drinks consumed when drinking alcohol after 20 weeks of pregnancy, total N[NN]	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>This data element is only to be recorded if the response to the Female—alcohol consumption after 20 weeks of pregnancy indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N data element is Code 1 (Yes).</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This data element is recorded for the mother only.</p>		
-	Female—number of standard drinks consumed when drinking alcohol in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy, total N[NN]	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>This data element is only to be recorded if the response to the Female—alcohol consumption in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N data element is Code 1 (Yes).</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>This data element is recorded for the mother only.</p>		

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Female—pertussis vaccination during pregnancy indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N	Mandatory	1
	DSS specific information: This data element is recorded for the mother only.		
-	Female—primary maternity model of care, identifier NNNNNN	Mandatory	1
	DSS specific information: This data element is recorded for the mother only.		
-	Female—primary postpartum haemorrhage indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N	Mandatory	1
	DSS specific information: This data element is recorded for the mother only.		
-	Female—timing of influenza vaccination during pregnancy, code N	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation: The data element is only to be recorded if the response to the Female—Influenza vaccination during pregnancy indicator, code N data element is Code 1 (Yes). DSS specific information: This data element is recorded for the mother only.		
-	Female—timing of pertussis vaccination during pregnancy, code N	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation: The data element is only to be recorded if the response to the Female—Pertussis vaccination during pregnancy indicator, code N data element is Code 1 (Yes). DSS specific information: This data element is recorded for the mother only.		
-	Female—type of diabetes mellitus during pregnancy, code N	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation: This data element is only to be recorded if the response to the Female—diabetes mellitus during pregnancy indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N data element is Code 1 (Yes).		

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Female—type of diabetes mellitus therapy during pregnancy, code N	Conditional	3
Conditional obligation:			
This data element is only to be recorded if the response to the Female—diabetes mellitus during pregnancy indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N data element is Code 1 (Yes).			
DSS specific information:			
This is a multiple response data element and is therefore operationalised for data collection across 3 individual data items (one data item per permissible value, excluding Code 99 (Not stated/inadequately described)).			
-	Female—type of hypertensive disorder during pregnancy, code N	Conditional	3
Conditional obligation:			
This data element is only to be recorded if the response to the Female—hypertensive disorder during pregnancy indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N data element is Code 1 (Yes).			
DSS specific information:			
This is a multiple response data element and is therefore operationalised for data collection across 3 individual data items (one data item per permissible value, excluding Code 9 (Not stated/inadequately described)).			
-	Person—blood transfusion indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N	Mandatory	1
DSS specific information:			
This data element is recorded for the mother only.			
-	Person—family violence screening status, code N	Mandatory	1
DSS specific information:			
This data element is recorded for the mother only.			
-	Person—height (measured), total centimetres NN[N].N	Mandatory	1
DSS specific information:			
This data element is recorded for the mother only.			
It is preferable to collect and record a pregnant female's height as a measured height. Where a measured height has not been provided or it is not possible to ascertain whether the height has been measured or self-reported, the value 999.9 should be recorded against this data element. Data should then be recorded against the Person—height (self-reported), total centimetres NN[N] data element.			
It is acceptable for measured height to be rounded to the nearest centimetre.			

- [Person—height \(self-reported\), total centimetres NN\[N\]](#)

Conditional 1

Conditional obligation:

It is preferable to collect and record a pregnant female's height as a measured height. Where a measured height has not been provided or it is not possible to ascertain whether the height has been measured or self-reported, the value 999.9 should be recorded against the [Person—height \(measured\), total centimetres NN\[N\].N](#) data element. Data should then be recorded against this conditional self-reported height data element.

DSS specific information:

This data element is recorded for the mother only.

It is acceptable for a self-reported height to be rounded to the nearest whole centimetre.

- [Person—presence or history of mental health condition indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N](#)

Mandatory 1

DSS specific information:

This data element is recorded for the mother only.

- [Person—weight \(measured\), total kilograms N\[NN\].N](#)

Mandatory 1

DSS specific information:

This data element is recorded for the mother only.

Weight should be recorded in the first trimester, preferably as a measured weight. However, the female's self-reported weight around the time of conception is acceptable if a measured weight is not available.

It is preferable to collect and record a pregnant female's weight as a measured weight. Where a measured weight has not been provided or it is not possible to ascertain whether the weight has been measured or self-reported, the value 999.9 should be recorded against this data element. Data should then be recorded against the [Person—weight \(self-reported\), total kilograms NN\[N\]](#) data element.

Weight rounded to the nearest whole kilogram is acceptable.

- [Person—weight \(self-reported\), total kilograms NN\[N\]](#)

Conditional 1

Conditional obligation:

It is preferable to collect and record a pregnant female's weight as a measured weight. Where a measured weight has not been provided or it is not possible to ascertain whether the weight has been measured or self-reported, the value 999.9 should be recorded against the [Person—weight \(measured\), total kilograms N\[NN\].N](#) data element. Data should then be recorded against this conditional self-reported weight data element.

DSS specific information:

This data element is recorded for the mother only.

Weight should be recorded in the first trimester, preferably as a measured weight. However, the female's self-reported weight around the time of conception is acceptable if a measured weight is not available.

Weight rounded to the nearest whole kilogram is acceptable.

- [Product of birth—head circumference, total centimetres NN\[N\].N](#)

Mandatory 1

DSS specific information:

Baby head circumference can be recorded as measured e.g. 35.1 cm or can be rounded to the nearest 0.5 cm, e.g. 35.0 cm, but in any case measurement should be recorded at least to the nearest 0.5 cm.

If rounding, round up or down to the nearest 0.5 cm, e.g. 35.2 cm would be rounded down to 35.0 cm; 35.3 cm would be rounded up to 35.5 cm.

Example:

A baby has two head circumference measurements taken at birth of 34.2 cm and 34.6 cm. These are within 0.5 cm of each other so the higher measurement of 34.6 cm is the correct one to record. It can be recorded as 34.6 cm or rounded to the nearest 0.5 cm, that is, 34.5 cm.