

Birth event—birth method, code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Method of birth
METEOR identifier:	749920
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health, Standard 17/12/2021
Definition:	The method of complete expulsion or extraction of a product of conception from the female in a birth event, as represented by a code.
Context:	Perinatal
Data Element Concept:	Birth event—birth method

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code										
Data type:	Number										
Format:	N										
Maximum character length:	1										
Permissible values:	<table><thead><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1</td><td>Vaginal—non-instrumental</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>Vaginal—forceps</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>Caesarean section</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>Vaginal—vacuum extraction</td></tr></tbody></table>	Value	Meaning	1	Vaginal—non-instrumental	2	Vaginal—forceps	4	Caesarean section	5	Vaginal—vacuum extraction
Value	Meaning										
1	Vaginal—non-instrumental										
2	Vaginal—forceps										
4	Caesarean section										
5	Vaginal—vacuum extraction										

Supplementary values:	<table><thead><tr><th>Value</th><th>Meaning</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>9</td><td>Not stated/inadequately described</td></tr></tbody></table>	Value	Meaning	9	Not stated/inadequately described
Value	Meaning				
9	Not stated/inadequately described				

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:	National Perinatal Data Development Committee
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Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

CODE 1 Vaginal—non-instrumental

Includes a vaginal breech that has been manually rotated.

CODE 2 Vaginal—forceps

Includes a vaginal breech with forceps to the after-coming head.

CODE 4 Caesarean section

Includes the use of forceps/vacuum extraction to assist the extraction of the product of conception in a caesarean section or where a hysterotomy is performed to extract the product of conception.

This data element should be recorded in conjunction with the [Birth event—anaesthesia administered indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N](#) data element when method of birth is Code 2 (Vaginal—forceps), Code 4 (Caesarean section) or Code 5 (Vaginal—vacuum extraction).

This data element should be recorded in conjunction with the [Birth event—type of anaesthesia administered, code N\[N\]](#) data element when method of birth 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](#) is Code 1 (Yes).

This data element should be recorded in conjunction with the [Birth event—main indication for caesarean section, code N\[N\]](#) data element when method of birth is Code 4 (Caesarean section).

This data element should be recorded in conjunction with the [Birth event—additional indication for caesarean section, code N\[N\]](#) data element when method of birth is Code 4 (Caesarean section), [Birth event—main indication for caesarean section, code N\[N\]](#) is completed and there is more than one reason for which a caesarean was performed.

Vaginal birth with vacuum extraction assistance.

Comments:

Code 3 (Vaginal breech) was omitted from this data element in 2006 and is no longer in use. For information about its meaning in previous data elements, see superseded versions. Information on 'Vaginal breech' births is recorded in the data element [Birth event—birth presentation, code N](#)

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: National Perinatal Data Development Committee

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

- See also [Birth event—additional indication for caesarean section, code N\[N\]](#)
- [Health](#), Standard 03/12/2020
- See also [Birth event—anaesthesia administered indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N](#)
- [Health](#), Standard 03/12/2020
- See also [Birth event—anaesthesia administered indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N](#)
- [Health](#), Recorded 25/07/2022
- Has been superseded by [Birth event—birth method, code N](#)
- [Health](#), Recorded 25/07/2022
- Supersedes [Birth event—birth method, code N](#)
- [Health](#), Superseded 17/12/2021
- See also [Birth event—main indication for caesarean section, code N\[N\]](#)
- [Health](#), Standard 03/12/2020
- See also [Birth event—type of analgesia administered, code N\[N\]](#)
- [Health](#), Standard 17/12/2021
- See also [Female—caesarean section at most recent previous birth indicator, yes/no/not applicable/not stated/inadequately described code N](#)
- [Health](#), Standard 03/12/2020

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Perinatal NMDS 2022–23](#)[Health](#), Standard 17/12/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2022

Implementation end date: 30/06/2023

DSS specific information:

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