

Birth event—type of anaesthesia administered, code N[N]

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Type of anaesthesia administered during a birth event
METEOR identifier:	749932
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health, Standard 17/12/2021
Definition:	The type of anaesthesia administered to a female during a birth event with instrumental or operative birth, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Birth event—type of anaesthesia administered

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code
Data type:	Number
Format:	N[N]
Maximum character length:	2

Permissible values:

Value	Meaning
-------	---------

2	Local anaesthetic to perineum
3	Pudendal block
4	Epidural or caudal block
5	Spinal block
6	General anaesthesia
7	Combined spinal-epidural block
88	Other anaesthesia

Supplementary values:

Value	Meaning
-------	---------

99	Not stated/inadequately described
----	-----------------------------------

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

CODE 2 Local anaesthetic to perineum

A local anaesthetic to the perineum was administered to the mother for the operative/instrumental birth of the baby. Local anaesthetic to perineum is the infiltration of the perineum with a local anaesthetic.

CODE 3 Pudendal block

A pudendal block was administered to the mother for the operative/instrumental birth of the baby. A pudendal block is an injection of a local anaesthetic to the pudendal nerves.

CODE 4 Epidural or caudal block

An epidural or caudal block was administered to the mother for the operative/instrumental birth of the baby.

An epidural block is an injection of a local anaesthetic into the epidural space of the spinal column.

A caudal block is an injection of a local anaesthetic agent into the caudal portion of the spinal canal through the sacrum.

CODE 5 Spinal block

A spinal block was administered to the mother for the operative/instrumental birth of the baby. A spinal block is an injection of an analgesic drug or anaesthetic drug into the subarachnoid space of the spinal cord. Spinal block is also called Subarachnoid Block Anaesthesia.

CODE 6 General anaesthesia

General anaesthesia was administered to the mother for the operative/instrumental birth of the baby. General anaesthesia includes various anaesthetic agents given primarily by inhalation or intravenous injection.

CODE 7 Combined spinal-epidural block

A combined spinal-epidural block was administered to the mother for the operative/instrumental birth of the baby. A combined spinal-epidural block is a needle-through-needle injection of an analgesic drug or anaesthetic drug into both the epidural space and the subarachnoid space of the spinal column. The spinal-epidural block combines the benefits of rapid action of a spinal block and the flexibility of an epidural block. An epidural catheter inserted during the technique enables the provision of long-lasting analgesia with the ability to titrate the dose for the desired effect.

CODE 88 Other anaesthesia

Other anaesthesia (not indicated above) was administered to the mother for the operative/instrumental birth of the baby. This may include parenteral opioids and nitrous oxide.

Comments:

Code 1 (None) has been omitted as it is no longer in use. For information about its meaning in previous data elements, see superseded versions.

Data element attributes**Collection and usage attributes****Guide for use:**

More than one permissible value may be recorded.

CODE 7 Combined spinal-epidural block

Combined spinal-epidural block should not be recorded if both Code 4 and Code 5 are also recorded.

Comments:

Anaesthetic use may affect the health status of the baby and is an indicator of obstetric intervention.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: National Perinatal Data Development Committee

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes [Birth event—type of anaesthesia administered, code N\[N\]](#)

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

See also [Birth event—anaesthesia administered indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N](#)

- [Health](#), Qualified 02/09/2022

See also [Birth event—anaesthesia administered indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 03/12/2020

See also [Birth event—birth method, code N](#)

- [Health](#), Qualified 02/09/2022

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

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 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).

DSS specific information:

This data element does not include the removal of the placenta.

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)).

[Perinatal NMDS 2023–24 Health](#), Qualified 02/09/2022

Implementation start date: 01/07/2023

Implementation end date: 30/06/2024

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 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).

DSS specific information:

This data element does not include the removal of the placenta.

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)).

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2015–2022

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.