

Birth event—birth method, code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Method of birth
METEOR identifier:	762173
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health, Qualified 02/09/2022
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						
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Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: National Perinatal Data Development Committee

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: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

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

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

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—birth presentation, code N](#)

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

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

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

Implementation start date: 01/07/2023

Implementation end date: 30/06/2024

DSS specific information:

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

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