

# Female (mother)—postpartum perineal status, code N[N]

Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2024

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 4.0 (CC BY 4.0) 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 on this website's material but must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder, in line with our attribution policy. The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to [info@aihw.gov.au](mailto:info@aihw.gov.au).

Enquiries or comments on the METEOR metadata or download should be directed to the METEOR team at [meteor@aihw.gov.au](mailto:meteor@aihw.gov.au).

# Female (mother)—postpartum perineal status, code N[N]

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Element
<b>Short name:</b>	Postpartum perineal status
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	423659
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Health!</a> , Superseded 02/08/2017
<b>Definition:</b>	The state of the perineum following birth, as represented by a code.
<b>Context:</b>	Perinatal statistics
<b>Data Element Concept:</b>	<a href="#">Female (mother)—postpartum perineal status</a>
<b>Value Domain:</b>	<a href="#">Perineal status code N[N]</a>

## Value domain attributes

### Representational attributes

<b>Representation class:</b>	Code
<b>Data type:</b>	Number
<b>Format:</b>	N[N]
<b>Maximum character length:</b>	2

	<b>Value</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>Permissible values:</b>	1	Intact
	2	1st degree laceration/vaginal graze
	3	2nd degree laceration
	4	3rd degree laceration
	5	Episiotomy
	7	4th degree laceration
	88	Other perineal laceration, rupture or tear
<b>Supplementary values:</b>	99	Not stated/inadequately described

## Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:**

CODE 2 1st degree laceration/vaginal graze

Graze, laceration, rupture or tear of the perineal skin during delivery that may be considered to be slight or that involves one or more of the following structures:

- fourchette
- labia
- vagina
- vulva

CODE 3 2nd degree laceration

Perineal laceration, rupture or tear as in Code 2 occurring during delivery, also involving:

- pelvic floor
- perineal muscles
- vaginal muscles

Excludes laceration involving the anal sphincter.

CODE 4 3rd degree laceration

Perineal laceration, rupture or tear as in Code 3 occurring during delivery, also involving:

- anal sphincter
- rectovaginal septum
- sphincter not otherwise specified (NOS)

Excludes laceration involving the anal or rectal mucosa.

CODE 7 4th degree laceration

Perineal laceration, rupture or tear as in Code 4 occurring during delivery, also involving:

- anal mucosa
- rectal mucosa

CODE 88 Other perineal laceration, rupture or tear

May include haematoma or unspecified perineal tear.

**Comments:**

If a laceration occurred during delivery and an episiotomy was performed, both the degree of laceration and the episiotomy should be recorded. If an episiotomy is performed, the perineum cannot be intact.

While 4th degree laceration is more severe than an episiotomy, this category has not been placed in order of clinical significance within the value domain. Instead, the category has been added to the value domain as a new code rather than modifying the order of the existing permissible values. This approach is consistent with established practice in classifications, wherein a new value domain identifier (or code number) is assigned to any new value meaning that occurs, rather than assigning this new value domain meaning to an existing value domain identifier.

**Source and reference attributes**

**Submitting organisation:** National Perinatal Data Development Committee

**Origin:** National Centre for Classification in Health (NCCH) 2010. The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM) – Seventh Edition - Tabular list of diseases and Alphabetic index of diseases. Sydney: NCCH, Faculty of Health Sciences, The University of Sydney.

# Data element attributes

## Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:** Multiple entries of permissible values are allowed.

**Comments:** Perineal laceration (tear) may cause significant maternal morbidity in the postnatal period. Episiotomy is an indicator of management during labour and, to some extent, of obstetric intervention.

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Supersedes [Female \(mother\)—postpartum perineal status, code N Health!](#), Superseded 07/02/2013

Has been superseded by [Female \(mother\)—postpartum perineal status, code N\[N\] Health!](#), Superseded 12/12/2018

**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:** [Perinatal NMDS 2013-14 Health!](#), Superseded 07/03/2014  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2013  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2014

[Perinatal NMDS 2014-18 Health!](#), Superseded 02/08/2017  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2014  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2018

**Implementation in Indicators:**

**Used as Numerator**

[Australian Atlas of Healthcare Variation: Third- and fourth-degree perineal tears for all vaginal births, 2012-2014](#)

Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 07/06/2017

[National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 03–Episiotomy for females giving birth for the first time and giving birth vaginally, 2018](#)

Health!, Superseded 19/06/2019

[National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 03–Episiotomy for females giving birth for the first time and giving birth vaginally, 2019](#)

Health!, Superseded 16/09/2020

[National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 03–Episiotomy for females giving birth for the first time and giving birth vaginally, 2020](#)

Health!, Superseded 17/12/2021

[National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 03–Episiotomy for females giving birth for the first time and giving birth vaginally, 2020](#)

Health!, Superseded 17/12/2021

[National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 03–Episiotomy for females giving birth for the first time and giving birth vaginally, 2021](#)

Health!, Standard 17/12/2021

[National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 03—Episiotomy for women giving birth for the first time and giving birth vaginally \(2016\)](#)

Health!, Superseded 06/09/2018

[National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 13–Third and fourth degree tears for vaginal births, 2018](#)

Health!, Superseded 19/06/2019

[National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 13–Third and fourth degree tears for vaginal births, 2019](#)

Health!, Superseded 16/09/2020

[National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 13–Third and fourth degree tears for vaginal births, 2020](#)

Health!, Superseded 17/12/2021

[National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 13—Third and fourth degree tears for \(a\) all vaginal first births and \(b\) all vaginal births \(2016\)](#)

Health!, Superseded 06/09/2018

**Used as Disaggregation**

[National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 13–Third and fourth degree tears for vaginal births, 2018](#)

Health!, Superseded 19/06/2019

[National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 13–Third and fourth degree tears for vaginal births, 2019](#)

Health!, Superseded 16/09/2020

[National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 13–Third and fourth degree tears for vaginal births, 2020](#)

Health!, Superseded 17/12/2021

[National Core Maternity Indicators: PI 13—Third and fourth degree tears for \(a\) all vaginal first births and \(b\) all vaginal births \(2016\)](#)

Health!, Superseded 06/09/2018