Product of conception—gestational age, completed weeks N[N]

Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

Product of conception—gestational age, completed weeks N[N]

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Gestational age
METEOR identifier:	669039
Registration status:	Health!, Superseded 12/12/2018
Definition:	The age of a product of conception in completed weeks.
Data Element Concept:	Product of conception—gestational age
Value Domain:	Total weeks N[N]

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

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

	Value	Meaning
Supplementary values:	99	Not stated/unknown

Unit of measure:	Completed weeks

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	Gestational age is the best clinical estimate of the duration of pregnancy at a specific point in time, based on the first day of the last menstrual period, ultrasound or physical examination of the baby.

Gestational age is conventionally expressed in completed weeks. When gestational age is calculated using the first day of the last normal menstrual period, the first day is counted as day zero and not day one. Therefore, a 25 week, 5 day fetus is considered a 25 week fetus (25+0, 25+1, 25+2, 25+3, 25+4, 25+5, 25+6).

When ultrasound is used to date a pregnancy, the earliest ultrasound examination should be used and should preferably be between 6 and 10 weeks gestation. Scans performed beyond 24 weeks gestation are unlikely to be reliable in estimating gestational age and should not be used for this purpose.

The World Health Organization identifies the following categories for duration of gestation:

- pre-term: less than 37 completed weeks (less than 259 days) of gestation
- term: from 37 completed weeks to less than 42 completed weeks (259 to 293 days) of gestation
- post-term: 42 completed weeks or more (294 days or more) of gestation.

Comments: Gestational age is a key marker in pregnancy and an important risk factor for neonatal outcomes.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: National Perinatal Data Development Committee

Origin: WHO (World Health Organization) 1992. International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision. Geneva: WHO.

Reference documents: American Academy of Pediatrics 2004. Policy statement: Age terminology during the perinatal period. Paediatrics 114(5):1362–64.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes Product of conception—gestational age, completed weeks N[N]
   Health!, Superseded 02/08/2017
   Tasmanian Health, Superseded 03/07/2020

Has been superseded by Product of conception—gestational age, total completed weeks N[N]
   Health!, Standard 12/12/2018
   Tasmanian Health, Standard 03/07/2020

See also Pregnancy—estimated duration (at the first visit for antenatal care), completed weeks N[N]
   Health!, Superseded 12/12/2018
   Indigenous, Superseded 02/04/2019

See also Pregnancy—estimated duration, total weeks N[N]
   WA Health, Standard 04/03/2014

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

Perinatal NMDS 2018-19
   Health!, Superseded 12/12/2018
Implementation start date: 01/07/2018
Implementation end date: 30/06/2019
DSS specific information:

The first day of the last menstrual period (LMP) is required to estimate gestational age, which is a key outcome of 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 item should be recorded for each baby born.

Implementation in Indicators:

Used as Numerator

[Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 3.1.6–Proportion of babies born with low birthweight, 2020](#)
  Health!, Standard 02/12/2020

[Caesarean section at less than 37, 38 and 39 completed weeks gestation without medical or obstetric indication, 2017](#)
  Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 27/04/2021

[Caesarean section or induction of labour at less than 37, 38 and 39 completed weeks gestation without medical or obstetric indication, 2017](#)
  Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 27/04/2021

[Early planned caesarean section without medical or obstetric indication, 2015](#)
  Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 13/12/2018

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 01–Proportion of babies born of low birth weight, 2021](#)
  Health!, Standard 16/09/2020

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 01–Proportion of babies born of low birth weight, 2022](#)
  Health!, Standard 24/09/2021

Used as Denominator

[Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 3.1.6–Proportion of babies born with low birthweight, 2020](#)
  Health!, Standard 02/12/2020

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 01–Proportion of babies born of low birth weight, 2021](#)
  Health!, Standard 16/09/2020

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 01–Proportion of babies born of low birth weight, 2022](#)
  Health!, Standard 24/09/2021