

OBSTETRIC (ABERDEEN) CLASSIFICATION

DEFINITION OF THE TERMS USED IN THE OBSTETRIC (Aberdeen) CLASSIFICATION

CONGENITAL ANOMALY. Any genetic or structural defect arising at conception or during embryogenesis incompatible with life or potentially treatable but causing death.

ISOIMMUNISATION. Death ascribable to blood group incompatibility, rhesus (3) or non-rhesus (4).

ANTEPARTUM HAEMORRHAGE (APH), after 20 weeks gestation (140 days) whether revealed or not excluding antepartum haemorrhage secondary to pre-eclampsia (which is classified under pre-eclampsia). Minor degrees of haemorrhage at the start of labour (a show), and haemorrhage due to a cervical erosion or polyp should be ignored, but significant or recurrent bleeding of uncertain origin that is fairly closely followed by preterm labour should not be ignored.

MECHANICAL. Any death from uterine rupture and those deaths from birth trauma, or intrapartum asphyxia that are associated with problems in labour such as disproportion, malpresentation, cord prolapse, cord compression, or breech delivery in babies of 1000g or more. If there is no evidence of difficulty in labour, deaths from asphyxia or trauma should be classified as unexplained.

Antepartum deaths associated with cord entanglement in the absence of strong circumstantial evidence that cord compression caused death (eg fetal death soon after external version) should also be classified as unexplained

MATERNAL DISORDER. Include maternal trauma (such as a road traffic accident), diabetes, appendicitis, and cardiac disease etc, if severe enough to jeopardise the baby. Include significant renal disease or essential hypertension known to be present before pregnancy. Also include symptomatic and asymptomatic maternal infection when this resulted in the death of the baby.

MISCELLANEOUS. Specific fetal and neonatal conditions only. Do not include conditions directly ascribable to prematurity or anoxia before birth, because these deaths are attributable to the relevant underlying obstetric disorder or are unexplained (see below). Include, however, specific fetal conditions (eg twin-to-twin transfusion) or neonatal conditions (eg inhalation of milk) where these are not directly ascribable to intrapartum anoxia or preterm delivery. Include, also postnatally acquired infection, except in babies of less than 1000g; here the reason for the ventilator dependency or low birthweight is the codeable factor.

UNEXPLAINED. Deaths with no obstetric explanation, including unexplained antepartum stillbirths, deaths resulting from unexplained preterm delivery (including hyaline membrane disease, intraventricular haemorrhage, etc) and cases of intrapartum anoxia or trauma if the baby weighed less than 1000g at birth or delivery without any obvious associated mechanical problem. Cases should be subclassified into those babies weighing 2500g or more (20) and those of less than 2500g (21) at birth.

UNCLASSIFIABLE. Cases where little or nothing is known about pregnancy or delivery and that cannot be fitted into any of the above categories. Use this category as sparingly as possible.

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Categories at the head of the list take priority over those lower down. Only ONE answer applies – it is the lowest numbered category that adequately describes the death.

Code	Category
	Congenital anomaly:- any structural or genetic defect incompatible with life or potentially treatable but causing death
1	Neural tube defects
2	Other anomalies
	Isoimmunisation:- death ascribable to blood group incompatibility
3	Due to Rhesus (D) antigen
4	Due to other antigens
	Pre-eclampsia
5	Without APH
6	Complicated by APH
	Antepartum Haemorrhage (APH)
7	With placenta praevia
8	With placental abruption
9	APH of uncertain origin
	Mechanical
10	Cord prolapse or compression with vertex or face presentation
11	Other vertex or face presentation
12	Breech presentation
13	Oblique or compound presentation, uterine rupture etc.
	Maternal disorder
14	Maternal hypertensive disease
15	Other maternal disease
16	Maternal infection
	Miscellaneous
17	Neonatal infection
18	Other neonatal disease
19	Specific fetal conditions
	Unexplained
20	Equal or greater than 2.5kg
21	Less than 2.5kg
22	Unclassifiable