

Maternity and Child Health Number of Live and Still Births in Hospital by Trust/Hospital

INTRODUCTION

1. This return counts the number of live and still births in hospital, by type of delivery unit and by delivery method. Only births that occurred either while admitted to an HSC Trust hospital or while en route to an HSC Trust hospital, immediately prior to admission are included. Home births and free births are not included.

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS

2. A birth can be classified as 'live' or 'still'. A live birth is the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, which, after such separation, breathes or shows any other evidence of life such as heartbeat, umbilical cord pulsation, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached.
3. Still-birth means the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother after the twenty-fourth week of pregnancy of a child which did not at any time after being completely expelled or extracted breathe or show any other evidence of life.

UNIT CLASSIFICATION

4. The delivery unit classification referred to in this return makes a distinction between consultant led units and midwife led units. This distinction is based on the unit and not whether the birth was under the care of a midwife or consultant. 'Baby Born on Way' should be recorded as consultant led or midwife led, depending on the unit of admission.

METHOD OF DELIVERY

5. Method of delivery should be recorded as one of the categories below. The total number of births should equate to the unit classification totals.

Delivery methods encompassed should be mapped as follows;

- Normal Delivery – 'Complete', 'Vaginal, Spontaneous'
- Vaginal Breech – 'Vaginal, Breech'
- Forceps – 'Vaginal, Forceps'
- Ventouse – 'Vaginal Ventouse'
- Elective Section – DeliveryMethod contains 'C-section' and CSectionType is 'Elective'
- Emergency Section – DeliveryMethod contains 'C-section' and CSectionType is 'Emergency'