

Groups of underlying causes of death during pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium

Groups of underlying causes of death during pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium in mutually exclusive, totally inclusive groups^(1,2)

Type	Cause of death group name and number	Examples of potential causes of death
Direct	1. Pregnancies with abortive outcome	Complications of abortion and miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy and other conditions leading to maternal death and a pregnancy with abortive outcome
	2. Hypertensive disorders in pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium	Pre-eclampsia, eclampsia, Oedema, proteinuria and hypertensive disorders in pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium
	3. Obstetric haemorrhage	Obstetric diseases or conditions directly associated with haemorrhage; postpartum haemorrhage; antepartum haemorrhage
	4. Pregnancy-related infection	Pregnancy-related, infection-based diseases or conditions; sepsis
	5. Other obstetric complications	All other direct obstetric conditions not included in groups 1-4; prolonged / obstructed labour; ruptured uterus
	6. Unanticipated complications of management	Severe adverse effects and other unanticipated complications of medical and surgical care during pregnancy
Indirect	7. Non-obstetric complications	Non-obstetric conditions; Infections that are not a direct result of pregnancy (e.g., tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, malaria); Cardiac disease (including pre-existing hypertension); Endocrine conditions; diabetes; Gastrointestinal tract conditions; Central nervous system conditions; Respiratory conditions; Genitourinary conditions; Autoimmune disorders; Skeletal diseases; Psychiatric disorders; Neoplasms; severe anemia
Unspecified	8. Unknown / undetermined	Maternal death during pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium where the underlying cause is unknown or was not determined
Other	9. Coincidental causes	Death during pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium due to external causes

⁽¹⁾ WHO, UNICEF. Maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response: materials to support implementation. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2021.

⁽²⁾ WHO. The WHO Application of ICD-10 to deaths during pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium: ICD-MM. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2012.