



Business rules for incidents that involve fetal harm

How to record fetal harm in Datix CIMS

Step 1 – Was a fetus harmed in this incident?

Answer 'Yes' to this question found after the "Patient outcome" field.

Patient Outcome

★ Patient outcome

Patient outcome refers to patient harm (physical or psychological) as a direct result of a clinical incident and not their underlying condition or illness.

Death

Serious harm

Moderate harm

Minor harm

No harm

Was the patient absent without leave?

Was a fetus harmed in this incident?

Did this incident involve patient care from another service?

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Once you select 'Yes', you will see additional questions as seen below:

Clinical incident details

Clinical incident investigation

Third party comment

Department/Service Head/Director

Documentation

Communication & Feedback

Linked Records

Print

Show DIF1 values

Audit trail

+ Add a new incident

My reports

Design a report

New search

Saved queries

Help

Clinical incident investigation

To allow for full evaluation of the clinical incident, ensure all results are available e.g. blood tests, x-rays.

Severity Assessment Code (Confirmed)

Used to determine the appropriate level of investigation, analysis, action and escalation of a clinical incident.

★ Severity Assessment Code (Confirmed) ?

SAC 1

SAC 2

SAC 3

★ Is this incident a near miss? ?

Describe the results of the investigation and findings

*Do NOT repeat a description of the clinical incident

*Be factual

*Do NOT second guess

*Do NOT include staff member names but do include their Designation

Patient Outcome

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Death

Serious harm

Moderate harm

Minor harm

No harm

Was the patient absent without leave?

Was a fetus harmed in this incident?

Is this a multiple pregnancy? ?

Gestational age at time of the incident (weeks)

Fetal outcome ?

Did this incident involve patient care from another service?

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Step 2 - Is this a multiple pregnancy?

Indicate here if the incident involves more than one fetus. If the answer is 'Yes', record answers to the subsequent questions for the fetus who had the greater level of harm.

Step 3 – Gestational age at time of the incident (weeks)

Please enter the gestational age here.

Step 4 – Fetal outcome

Please enter the level of harm to the fetus here.

Note: Incidents that result in death or serious harm to a fetus should be confirmed as SAC1 incidents.

You can see an example of the fields related to fetal harm filled in below:

Patient Outcome	
<p>★ Patient outcome</p> <p>Patient outcome refers to patient harm (physical or psychological) as a direct result of a clinical incident and not their underlying condition or illness.</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Death</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Serious harm</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Moderate harm</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Minor harm</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No harm</p>
Was the patient absent without leave?	<input type="text"/>
Was a fetus harmed in this incident?	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
Is this a multiple pregnancy? ?	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>
Gestational age at time of the incident (weeks)	<input type="text" value="25"/>
Fetal outcome ?	<input type="text"/>
Did this incident involve patient care from another service?	<input type="text" value="Death"/>
<p>Click here to access Guidelines for the investigation of clinical incidents across health service boundaries</p>	<p>Serious harm</p> <p>Moderate harm</p> <p>Minor harm</p>
Causative/Contributing Factors	
In this investigation what factors were identified as contributing to this clinical incident?	

Common mistakes to note

Patient outcome vs fetal outcome

Note that a fetus will not have a UMRN and so the patient recorded in the incident is usually the mother. So if the patient against the record is the mother, then the patient outcome field should reflect the mother's outcome as seen in the screenshot below. If the mother did not pass away, then do not note death as the outcome (the fetus' outcome is recorded separately). You can see an example of this in the screenshots below.

Incorrect if the mother did not pass away:

The screenshot shows a form with the following fields and values:

- Patient Outcome** (circled in red):
 - ★ Patient outcome (circled in red):
 - Death
 - Serious harm
 - Moderate harm
 - Minor harm
 - No harm
- Was the patient absent without leave?: [Dropdown]
- Was a fetus harmed in this incident?: Yes [Dropdown]
- Is this a multiple pregnancy? [?]: Yes [Dropdown]
- Gestational age at time of the incident (weeks): 25 [Text]
- Fetal outcome** (circled in red):
 - Fetal outcome [?]: Death [Dropdown]
- Did this incident involve patient care from another service?: [Dropdown]

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Mother (boxed)

Fetus (boxed)

Correct if the mother did not pass away but the fetus did:

The screenshot shows a form with the following fields and values:

- Patient Outcome** (circled in red):
 - ★ Patient outcome (circled in red):
 - Death
 - Serious harm
 - Moderate harm
 - Minor harm
 - No harm
- Was the patient absent without leave?: [Dropdown]
- Was a fetus harmed in this incident?: Yes [Dropdown]
- Is this a multiple pregnancy? [?]: Yes [Dropdown]
- Gestational age at time of the incident (weeks): 25 [Text]
- Fetal outcome** (circled in red):
 - Fetal outcome [?]: Death [Dropdown]
- Did this incident involve patient care from another service?: [Dropdown]

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Mother (boxed)

Fetus (boxed)

Baby harm vs fetal harm

If a baby was delivered and then involved in an incident from health care provision, then the baby will be considered the patient. The baby's UMRN would be used to record the incident in Datix CIMS and the "Patient outcome" field will be used to record the baby's harm level. The fetal harm question would be answered 'No' as seen in the example below:

Patient Outcome	
<p>★ Patient outcome</p> <p>Patient outcome refers to patient harm (physical or psychological) as a direct result of a clinical incident and not their underlying condition or illness.</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Death</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Serious harm</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Moderate harm</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Minor harm</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No harm</p>
Was the patient absent without leave?	<input type="text"/>
Was a fetus harmed in this incident?	<input type="text" value="No"/>
Did this incident involve patient care from another service?	<input type="text"/>
<p>Click here to access Guidelines for the investigation of clinical incidents across health service boundaries</p>	