NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH AND CARE EXCELLENCE

# NICE indicator guidance

Date first published on NICE menu: January 2016

Last update: March 2021

## Indicator CCG37

The proportion of pregnant women having a planned caesarean section who have the procedure carried out at or after 39 weeks 0 days.

## Indicator type

Clinical commissioning group indicator.

## Rationale

Babies born by planned caesarean section at term but before the due date are a risk of respiratory conditions. The level of risk decreases with gestational age, particularly from 39 weeks onwards. There is evidence to suggest that avoiding a caesarean section before 39 weeks, and timely decisions if a caesarean section is needed, improve outcomes.

## Source guidance

[Caesarean birth. NICE guideline NG192](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng192) (2021), recommendation 1.4.1

## Specification

Numerator: The number of women in the denominator who had a caesarean section at or after 39 weeks 0 days.

Denominator: The number of women who had a planned caesarean section without maternal or fetal indication for an early birth.

Calculation: (Numerator/denominator)\*100

Exclusions: Pre-term births, multiple births or where the HES record implies an emergency caesarean section.

Data source: [Hospital episode statistics (HES) admitted patient care (APC) maternity data.](https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/data-tools-and-services/data-services/hospital-episode-statistics)

Minimum population: The indicator would be appropriate to assess performance of individual CCGs.

## Further information

This is NICE indicator guidance, which is part of the [NICE menu of indicators](https://www.nice.org.uk/Standards-and-Indicators/index). This document does not represent formal NICE guidance.