

O85 Puerperal sepsis

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While not a common cause of mortality in Australia, research from the [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Global Maternal Sepsis Study \(GLOSS\)](#) indicates there is a greater impact on maternal mortality and morbidity than previously thought, and sepsis due to obstetric infections is estimated to be the third most common cause of maternal mortality globally.

The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, Australian Modification (ICD-10-AM) Twelfth Edition Tabular information for O85 Puerperal sepsis notes:

Puerperal:

- endometritis
- peritonitis

Use additional code (Chapter 1) to identify specific type of sepsis — see Alphabetic Index: Sepsis/by type.

Use additional code to identify specific type of infection.

Use additional code (B95–B97) to identify infectious agent in localised infection.

Use additional code (R57.2) to identify septic shock.

Excludes: obstetric pyaemic and septic embolism (O88.3)
 sepsis during labour (O75.3)

The assignment of this code is supported by Australian Coding Standard (ACS) 0110 Sepsis and Septic Shock Exception 1.

‘Do not assign A41.9 Sepsis, unspecified with O85 Puerperal sepsis or P36 Sepsis of newborn as it does not add specificity.’

Why it is important to assign the additional codes?

Data from the Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection (QHAPDC) relating to sepsis are used to develop statewide and national protocols, programs and guide policy. For these protocols and programs to be effective, sepsis data needs to be of high quality. Decision making is only as good as the data that support it.

Poor sepsis data quality could result in delayed time to action (such as diverting quality improvement analysis time to understand the inaccuracies in the data) or misallocation of resources (such as poorly targeted quality improvement activities, education audits or interventions on specialties that shouldn't be prioritised).

Ensuring that supporting diagnosis codes are assigned with O85 Puerperal sepsis guarantees that the context of the clinical picture is accurately represented, and the data are of high quality.

Validations

Several validations applied to puerperal sepsis are:

H550 - Code | | is only valid for patients between | and |. This patient is |.

This validation is generated when the patient's age is outside the range of 12 to 55 years of age.

H552 - For code | | the patient should be |. This patient is |.

This validation is generated when the patient's sex is not female.

H570 - Code | | cannot be provided with codes in the range |.

This validation is generated when O85 *Puerperal sepsis* is assigned A41.9 *Sepsis, unspecified* and P36 *Sepsis of newborn*.

H565 - Code | | must be provided with a code in the range |.

This validation is generated when O85 *Puerperal sepsis* is not assigned with:

- Identified Chapter 1 ICD-10-AM codes as per the Alphabetic Index
- Codes in the range B95 – B97 *Bacterial, viral and other infectious agents*
- N71.0 – N71.9 *Inflammatory disease of uterus, except cervix*
- N73.3 *Female acute pelvic peritonitis*
- N73.5 *Female pelvic peritonitis, unspecified*.

How to resolve the validation

Providing responses in Electronic Validation Application (EVA) Plus to confirm the clinical documentation supporting the patient's age, sex, diagnosis and clinical coding assists SSB in resolving this validation.

For more information please refer to the [Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection \(QHAPDC\) Manual](#).

Document History

Version	Date	Status	Key changes made	Author/s
1.0	April 2021	Approved	Version 1.0 published.	Data Quality Team
2.0	May 2024	Approved	Updated reference to Twelfth Edition Australian Coding Standard, additional content, formatting.	Data Quality Team
3.0	October 2025	Approved	Australian Coding Standard (ACS) Thirteenth Edition update, editorial amendment.	Data Quality Team