

Ensure Accurate Maternal/Newborn Chart Number Linkage in the DAD



What is the Maternal/Newborn Chart Number (Group 01 Field 12)?

- On abstracts reporting a mother who has delivered a live-born baby, the Maternal/Newborn Chart Number (MNCN) is the chart number assigned to the live-born baby that she delivered.
- On the related newborn abstract, the Maternal/Newborn Chart Number is the chart number of the live-born baby's mother.

Why is it important to complete this data element accurately?

- The Maternal/Newborn Chart Number is the only data element used to link mothers and their babies, so it is imperative that this data element meets the highest standard of data quality.
- Linking maternal and newborn abstracts is critical in the measurement of maternal/newborn health outcomes.
 - This linkage allows data users to determine the impact of maternal factors (e.g., mothers' prior/existing health conditions such as diabetes or hypertension) on newborn health and outcomes (e.g., small for gestational age and low birth weight).
 - Linkages can also allow for studies on multiple births.

Getting it right . . . dos and don'ts!

Dos

✓ The Maternal/Newborn Chart Number must be blank for

- Obstetrics undelivered cases
- Stillbirth cases
- Therapeutic abortions cases
- Therapeutic abortions cases resulting in a live birth

✓ For multiple births

- On the mother's abstract, record the chart number of the first live-born infant.
- On each of the newborns' abstracts, record the mother's chart number.

✓ For babies born outside the reporting facility

- It is optional to report the Maternal/Newborn Chart Number when Z39.0 is recorded as the most responsible diagnosis on the mother's abstract.

✓ Make sure the format is consistent for both mother and newborn(s):

- The Field Type is alphanumeric.
- The Field Length should be a maximum of 10 characters.
- The use of leading zeros and the positioning of the chart number should be consistent, as this may affect the linkage of records for analysis.

✓ Most important!

- Perform a cross-check prior to submitting abstracts to CIHI to identify that the correct newborn is linked with the correct mother and also that multiple-birth newborns are not linked to more than 1 mother.

Don'ts

✗ Do not record ancillary notations

- For example, year, hyphens, alpha characters.

For full recording details, refer to the current *DAD Abstracting Manual*.