



# Failed Induction of Labor

The purpose of this Tip for Coders is to clarify when a case qualifies as failed induction of labor and is classified to a code from category O61 *Failed induction of labour*.

## Induction of labor

Induction of labor is the artificial initiation of labor before it begins spontaneously. The first stage of labor consists of 2 phases:

- **Latent phase** — Begins with the onset of labor; cervical effacement then starts, with dilation from 0 cm to 3 cm or 4 cm and the cervix becomes softer, pliable and more elastic; contractions begin to become coordinated, stronger and more efficient.
- **Active phase** — Begins when dilation of the cervix has reached 3 cm to 4 cm; cervix becomes responsive and dilation proceeds rapidly; contractions are very strong and regular, occurring every 2 to 3 minutes; fetal descent begins and the cervix becomes fully dilated (10 cm) and is 100% effaced.

Measures taken during the **latent phase** of labor are considered induction, since labor has not yet progressed to the **active phase**.

It is not the expectation that coders use the above definitions to determine the onset of labor. The expectation is that coders use the time that is documented on the delivery record to determine the onset of labor. This time is understood to be the start of **active** labor, even though the patient may experience some contractions prior to this. The above definitions are to help inform a discussion with the attending physician when there appears to be a discrepancy in terminology documented to describe the phase of labor and induction of labor.

## Failed induction of labor

When an intervention is performed to induce labor and the **active phase** of labor does **not** ensue, the patient will be discharged or will proceed to Cesarean section to deliver.

When induction of labor does not result in the **active phase** of labor, assign a code from category O61 *Failed induction of labour*. Multiple attempts at induction during a single admission that eventually result in labor and vaginal delivery are not classified as failed induction.





## Tip for Coders

### Failed induction of labor?

Is O61 *Failed induction of labour* assigned in the following case scenarios?

#### Description of case

1. Gravida 1 patient at 38 weeks' gestation presents for induction for fetal macrosomia. Cervidil is placed and falls out 12 hours later. Patient starts contractions but contractions peter out. Her cervix remains unfavorable. Cook catheter is placed and blown up with 40 mL of saline. She begins repetitive tetanic contractions with a combination of abnormal contractions. The contractions settle. She is discharged home to return the next day for a Cesarean section.
2. Gravida 1 patient at 41 + 5 weeks' gestation presents for induction for post-dates. Cervidil is placed 3 times, Foley catheter and oxytocin at 30 mU per minute. Contractions start but peter out. Patient is 3 cm dilated, 2 cm long. Amniotomy is performed for a small amount of blood-tinged fluid. No progress for 4 hours. Cervix remains 3 cm dilated. Proceed with Cesarean section.
3. Gravida 2 patient at 38 + 2 weeks' gestation presents for induction for diabetes mellitus and macrosomia, greater than 90th percentile. Cervical assessment shows 2 cm dilated and 50% effaced at -2 station. Oxytocin started. Contractions ensue, cervix dilates to 6 cm. Oxytocin is augmented to maximum 40 mU per minute without any further cervical change. Ballotable head, so unsafe to do artificial rupture of membranes. Proceed to urgent lower segment Cesarean section for failure to progress.

#### Answers

1. **Yes**, a code from category O61 *Failed induction of labour* is assigned. **Rationale:** The **active phase** of labor did **not** ensue following induction. This case qualifies as a failed induction of labor for the current episode of care. A code from category O61 *Failed induction of labour* is also assigned for the Cesarean section delivery episode of care, along with the Canadian Classification of Health Interventions (CCI) codes for induction with the pre-admit flag.
2. **Yes**, a code from category O61 *Failed induction of labour* is assigned. **Rationale:** The **active phase** of labor did **not** ensue following induction. This case qualifies as a failed induction of labor.
3. **No**, a code from category O61 *Failed induction of labour* is **not** assigned. **Rationale:** The **active phase** of labor did ensue following induction. Cervix dilated to 6 cm and contractions ensued. This case does **not** qualify as a failed induction of labor.