

Codes for assessors for classification of primary  
(underlying) and final and contributory causes of  
maternal death in South Africa

(Revised 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2001)

## Classification of the primary cause of maternal death

Primary Cause	Code
❖ <b>No obstetrical cause</b>	100
➤ Motor vehicle accident	110
➤ Assault	120
➤ Assault with rape	121
➤ Trauma	130
➤ Suicide	140
➤ Herbal medicine	150
➤ Other – specify	160
❖ <b>Pre-existing maternal disease</b>	200
➤ Cardiac disease	
Undiagnosed	211
Mixed mitral valve disease	212
Other rheumatic heart disease	213
Artificial valve complications	214
Congenital heart disease	215
Arrythmias	216
Cardiomyopathy	217
Other	218
➤ Endocrine	
Diabetes mellitus	221
Thyroid	222
Other	223
➤ Gastrointestinal Tract	
Liver disease	231
Intestine	232
Pancreatitis	233
Other	234
➤ Central Nervous System	
Cerebrovascular accident	241
Epilepsy	242
Other	243
➤ Respiratory (specify)	250
➤ Haematological (specify)	260
➤ Genito-urinary	
Renal	271
Genital	272
➤ Immune	
Collagen disease	281
Other	282
➤ Skeletal	
Kyphoscoliosis	291
Dwarfism	292
Other	293
❖ <b>Non-pregnancy-related infections and AIDS</b>	300
➤ Pneumonia	310
➤ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	320
➤ Tuberculosis	330
➤ Bacterial endocarditis	340
➤ Pyelonephritis, urinary tract infection	350
➤ Appendicitis	360
➤ Malaria	370
➤ Meningitis	380
➤ Other – specify	390

❖ <b>Ectopic pregnancy</b>	400
➤ Pregnancy less than 20 weeks	410
➤ Extrauterine pregnancy (more than 20 weeks)	420
❖ <b>Abortion</b>	500
➤ Septic abortion	510
➤ Uterine trauma	520
➤ Trophoblastic disease	530
➤ Complication of legal termination of pregnancy (TOP)	540
❖ <b>Pregnancy-related sepsis</b>	600
➤ Amniotic fluid infection with ruptured membranes	610
➤ Amniotic fluid infection with intact membranes	620
➤ Puerperal sepsis following normal delivery	630
➤ Puerperal sepsis following caesarean section	640
➤ Puerperal sepsis following vaginal delivery after obstructed labour	650
➤ Puerperal sepsis following caesarean section after obstructed labour	660
➤ Other – specify	670
❖ <b>Antepartum haemorrhage</b>	700
➤ Abruptio placentae	710
➤ Abruptio placentae with hypertension	720
➤ Placenta praevia	730
➤ Other – specify	740
❖ <b>Postpartum haemorrhage</b>	800
➤ Retained placenta; placenta accreta, increta or percreta	810
➤ Uterine atony - due to uterine over distension (multiple pregnancy, polyhydramnios)	820
➤ Uterine atony due to prolonged labour	830
➤ Ruptured uterus - with previous caesarean section	840
➤ Ruptured uterus - without previous caesarean section	850
➤ Inverted uterus	860
➤ Other uterine trauma – specify	870
➤ Intraoperative haemorrhage	880
➤ PPH after caesarean section	890
❖ <b>Hypertensive disorders of pregnancy</b>	900
➤ Chronic hypertension	910
➤ Proteinuric hypertension	920
➤ Eclampsia	930
➤ HELLP syndrome	940
➤ Rupture of the liver	950
➤ Acute fatty liver	960
➤ Other – specify	970

❖ <b>Anaesthetic complications</b>	1000
➤ Complications general anaesthesia	1010
➤ Complications epidural block	1020
➤ Complications spinal block	1030
❖ <b>Embolism</b>	1100
➤ Pulmonary embolus	1110
➤ Amniotic fluid embolus	1120
❖ <b>Acute collapse – cause unknown</b>	1200
❖ <b>Unknown</b>	1300
➤ Death at home/outside health service	1310
➤ No primary cause found	1320

## Classification of the final and contributory cause/s of death for mothers

Organ System	Code
❖ <b>Hypovolaemic shock</b>	100
➤ Following postpartum haemorrhage	110
➤ Following antepartum haemorrhage	120
➤ Following ectopic pregnancy	130
❖ <b>Septic shock</b>	200
➤ Following an abortion	210
➤ Following a viable pregnancy	220
➤ Following an incidental infection	230
❖ <b>Respiratory failure</b>	300
➤ Adult respiratory distress syndrome	310
➤ Pneumonia (including TB, or any other type)	320
➤ Acute respiratory failure	330
❖ <b>Cardiac failure</b>	400
➤ Pulmonary oedema	410
➤ Cardiac arrest	420
❖ <b>Renal failure</b>	500
➤ Acute tubular necrosis	510
➤ Acute medullary necrosis	520
❖ <b>Liver failure</b>	600
➤ Following HELLP syndrome	610
➤ Following drug overdose	620
❖ <b>Cerebral complications</b>	700
➤ Intracranial haemorrhage	710
➤ Cerebral oedema resulting in coning	720
➤ Meningitis/infection (including malaria)	730
➤ Cerebral emboli	740
❖ <b>Metabolic</b>	800
➤ Maternal ketoacidosis	810
➤ Thyroid crisis	820
❖ <b>Disseminated intravascular coagulation</b>	900
➤ Disseminated intravascular coagulation	910
❖ <b>Multi-organ failure</b>	1000
➤ Multi-organ failure	1010
❖ <b>Immune system failure</b>	1100
➤ HIV/AIDS	1110
❖ <b>Unknown</b>	1200
➤ Home death	1210
❖ <b>Other – specify</b>	1300

If a post-mortem is available, please give the findings.