

Apgar Score	A rapid evaluation of a newborn's health after birth. It measures their heart rate, breathing, muscle tone, reflexes, and skin colour to assess their well-being and determine if they require immediate medical attention.
Asphyxia	A state of being deprived of oxygen.
Birth Trauma	A general term that is used to describe the physical injury to tissues and organs during labour and/or delivery.
Blood Lactate Levels	A measurement of the amount of lactate, a byproduct of metabolism, in a newborn's blood. High lactate levels may indicate insufficient oxygen supply or other health issues. Monitoring these levels helps to assess the baby's well-being and guide medical interventions if needed.
Cardiotocography (CTG)	A test used during pregnancy and labour to monitor the baby's heart rate. It can also monitor the mother's contractions during labour. It involves placing sensors on the mother's abdomen to record the baby's heart rate and the intensity and frequency of contractions. It helps healthcare providers to assess the baby's well-being.
Cord Blood Gas Analysis	The examination of blood collected from the umbilical cord. This helps to assess the baby's oxygen and carbon dioxide levels as well as the acidity of their blood at birth.
Fetal Acidosis	A condition that occurs when the baby's blood becomes too acidic during pregnancy or childbirth. It may happen due to a decreased oxygen supply or other factors. Prompt medical attention is crucial to restore the baby's acid-base balance and ensure their well-being.
Hypoxia	A below average oxygen level within the blood.
Hypoxic-Ischemic Encephalopathy	A general term used to describe brain injury caused by lack of oxygen and blood flow to the brain.
Instrumental Delivery	When the birth of the baby is assisted medically. This can be achieved by the use of various instruments e.g., forceps; ventouse (vacuum cup).
Intubation	A medical procedure in which a tube is inserted into a person's airway to help them breathe or deliver medications directly to their lungs.
Induction of Labour (IOL)	The medical/surgical action undertaken to stimulate the onset of labour.
Ischemia	A lack of blood flow to an organ or tissue. If left untreated ischemia can lead to tissue death.



Maternal Pyrexia	The mother's body temperature rises during the process of giving birth. This can signify maternal infection.
Neonatal Encephalopathy	An injury caused to the brain due to lack of oxygen during labour or shortly after birth.
Obstetric	The medical specialisation that focuses on pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum recovery.
Positive Pressure Ventilation	A form of respiratory therapy that involves the delivery of air or a mixture of oxygen combined with other gases delivered by positive pressure into the lungs.
Prolonged rupture of membranes (PROM)	The breaking of the amniotic sac ('waters') 24 hours before labour begins.
Pyrexia	More commonly known as a 'fever' and occurs when the body's temperature exceeds the normal range. In babies and children, the average body temperature ranges between 36.6°C - 37.2°C. In adults the average body temperature ranges from 36.1°C – 37.2°C.
Sarnat Score	A clinical assessment tool that is used to determine the grade of neonatal encephalopathy. It allows clinicians to easily assess whether the infant's neurological condition is mild, moderate, or severe.
Shoulder dystocia	The difficulty of delivering one or both shoulders of the baby at the time of birth.
Therapeutic Hypothermia	A form of medical cooling which targets the baby's body temperature to prevent or reduce further damage to the brain cells. The baby's temperature is cooled to c. 33°C-34°C over a 72 hour period to improve long-term outcomes.
Vertex Presentation	The optimal position for the baby to present prior to vaginal delivery. The fetus is positioned headfirst (cephalic) and facing towards the spine.