

OUR DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

Within each maternity in Ireland, unit coordinators with the responsibility of submitting perinatal mortality data to the NPEC have been identified. Pseudonymised* data on perinatal deaths from births that occurred between January 1 and December 31 of a given year are submitted to the NPEC by all 19 units using a standardised notification dataset either electronically, via the secure online NPEC database, or alternatively by paper format.

The NPEC Perinatal Mortality Clinical Audit notification dataset includes maternal and infant factors associated with the death. This provides a robust framework for evaluating obstetric and neonatal practices.

For further information on the Perinatal Mortality National Clinical Audit, please contact Edel Manning (e.manning@ucc.ie).

*The data that the NPEC receives is not identifiable. A code is assigned to each case that the hospital stores in relation to the patient identifiers, the NPEC does not have access to this identifiable information.

Read our reports or learn more about our audits and research on our website and social media channels

The Perinatal Mortality National Clinical Audit Report will be released in late 2025.



Perinatal Mortality
National Clinical Audit



Severe Maternal Morbidity
Audit



Planned Homebirths Audit



Very Low Birth Weight
Infants Audit



Neonatal Hypothermia
Audit



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NATIONAL
PERINATAL
EPIDEMIOLOGY
CENTRE

**PERINATAL MORTALITY
NATIONAL CLINICAL AUDIT**



THE NATIONAL PERINATAL EPIDEMIOLOGY CENTRE

The National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC) is a national clinical audit and research centre based at University College Cork with offices at Cork University Maternity Hospital.

OUR OBJECTIVE

The NPEC's objective is to collaborate with Irish maternity services to translate clinical audit data and epidemiological evidence into improved maternity care for families in Ireland.

COLLABORATE WITH US

At the NPEC we are always looking to collaborate. Get in touch with if you are looking for opportunities for students, data requests or research collaborations.



THE PERINATAL MORTALITY NATIONAL CLINICAL AUDIT

Perinatal mortality is an important measure of obstetric and neonatal care.

Regular audit of perinatal mortality can identify modifiable risk factors which decrease the risk of perinatal death and also inform clinical practice. Over the past decades, the rate of perinatal mortality has decreased substantially in high-resource countries and has been partly attributed to the proliferation of regular perinatal mortality audits.

Thus, given the importance of such audits, the NPEC has provided an annual national assessment of perinatal mortality in Ireland (from a clinical viewpoint) since 2008. It has done so with the guidance and collaboration of the NPEC Perinatal Mortality National Clinical Audit Group.

PERINATAL MORTALITY DEFINITIONS IN IRELAND

All cases of babies that died before birth until 28 days after birth are included in this audit and in our perinatal mortality rates.

Stillbirth: The NPEC seeks to apply a definition of stillbirth in accordance with the Irish Stillbirths Registration Act, which specifies stillbirth as a child born weighing 500 grammes or more or having a gestational age of 24 weeks or more who shows no sign of life

Early neonatal death: Death of a live born baby occurring within 7 completed days of birth.

Late neonatal death: Death of a live born baby occurring after the 7th day and within 28 completed days of birth.

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