

# Definition of terms

Aetiology	The cause, set of causes, or manner of causation, of a disease or condition.
Antenatal	The period covering conception up to the time of birth.
Antepartum	Prior to labour.
Apgar Score	Numerical score used to indicate a baby's condition at 1 minute and at 5 minutes after birth, in relation to each of 5 characteristics: breathing, colour, heart rate, muscle tone and reflex irritability.
Apnea	Cessation of breathing.
Autopsy	An examination performed after the baby's death to determine the cause of death. A full autopsy involves a surgical cut or incision and x-ray. The placenta is also examined. A limited autopsy is subject to parental decision and may or may not include examination of the placenta.
Clinician	A physician involved in the diagnosis and treatment of patients, or who is skilled in clinical methods, as opposed to one who specialises in research.
Cultural safety	<p>The essential components of cultural safety include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an understanding of one's own culture;</li><li>• an acknowledgement of difference, and a requirement that caregivers are actively mindful and respectful of difference(s);</li><li>• it is informed by the theory of power relations -any attempt to depoliticise cultural safety is to miss the point;</li><li>• an appreciation of the historical context of colonisation, the practices of racism at individual and institutional levels, and their impact on First Nations People's lives and wellbeing – both in the past and the present; and</li><li>• its presence or absence is determined by the experience of the recipient of care—it is not defined by the caregiver.<sup>1</sup></li></ul>

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1 Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses 2013, p. 7.

External examination	Involves x-ray and external examination of baby's body and placenta, but no examination of internal organs.
Fetal death	The death of a baby prior to birth (alternatively, stillbirth).
Gestation	The time between conception and birth during which the embryo or fetus is developing in the uterus.
Gestational age	Duration of a pregnancy in number of completed weeks.
Gravidity	The number of times that a woman has been pregnant.
Health practitioner	Someone qualified in the practice of a particular field of the health profession.
Hypertension	High blood pressure.
Hypoxic	A condition in which the body or a region of the body is deprived of adequate oxygen supply at the tissue level.
Intrapartum	Occurring during childbirth or during the birth process.
Neonatal	Pertaining to a newborn child.
Parity	The number of previous pregnancies experienced by a woman that have resulted in a live birth or a stillbirth.
Perinatal	Pertaining to, or occurring in, the period shortly before or after birth (usually up to 28 days after).
Placenta	A temporary organ that develops during pregnancy to nourish and maintain the fetus through the umbilical cord.
Postpartum	The period following labour and birth.
Stillbirth	Death before the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of conception of 20 or more completed weeks of gestation or of 400 grams or more birthweight.
Term birth	Birth after 37 and before 42 completed weeks of gestation.
Vasa praevia	A rare but potentially serious condition in which blood vessels carrying blood between the placenta and the baby cross over the cervix. These vessels may bleed if the woman goes into labour, if the waters break, or if the cervix opens.