

History of Preterm Delivery

Definition/ cut-off value

Birth of an infant at ≤ 37 weeks gestation

Pregnant Women: any history of preterm delivery

Breastfeeding/Non-Breastfeeding: most recent pregnancy

Participant category and priority level

Category

Priority

Pregnant Women

I

Breastfeeding Women

I

Non-Breastfeeding Women

III, IV, V, or VI

Justification

Preterm birth causes at least 75% of neonatal deaths not due to congenital malformations (1). In most cases of preterm labor, the cause is unknown. Epidemiologic studies have consistently reported low socioeconomic status, nonwhite race, maternal age of ≤ 18 years or ≥ 40 years, and low prepregnancy underweight as risk factors. A history of one previous preterm birth is associated with a recurrent risk of 17-37% (2, 3); the risk increases with the number of prior preterm births and decreases with the number of term deliveries.

References

1. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Preterm Labor. Technical Bulletin 206. Washington, DC: ACOG, 1995.
 2. Hoffman HJ, Bakketeig LS. Risk factors associated with the occurrence of preterm birth. Clin.Obstet.Gynecol. 1984;27:539-52.
 3. Keiirse MJNC, Rush RW, Anderson AB, Turnbull AC. Risk of preterm delivery in patients with a previous preterm delivery and/or abortion. Br.J.Obstet.Gynecol. 1978;85:81-85.
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