

ASSESSMENT OF THE ACCURACY OF THE PARKYN FORM FOR IDENTIFICATION OF LOW BIRTH WEIGHT AND MATERNAL AGE

In order to ascertain the validity of the Parkyn form in collecting information, several variables were assessed. These included:

- An assessment of the accuracy between the actual birth weight and the birth weight score;
- An assessment of the accuracy between the actual age of the mother and the maternal age score.

Birth Weight

On the Parkyn form, the baby's birth weight is recorded directly. A code is also assigned under section B3 – Development Factors – Low Birth Weight.

The assessment of the assigned birth weight codes revealed the following:

- 409 (97.1%) of birth weights were assigned an appropriate code on the Parkyn form;
- 9 (2.1%) of the forms did not have a birth weight, but were assigned a code on the Parkyn form. In 8 of the 9 cases the code assigned was 0 - not applicable. This code assumes a normal birth weight. One of the 9 cases was coded as normal weight even though the birthweight was unknown.
- An additional 3 (0.7%) of the birth weights were assigned an incorrect code; Coded as a healthy weight >2499 grams when actually between 1500 - 2499 grams.

Age of Mother

On the parkyn form, the mother's date of birth is collected. Section B7 – age of mother on the Parkyn form is where the mother's age is assigned a risk code.

The risk codes are as follows:

- A code of 9= age 15 years and under.
- A code of 8= age 16 or 17 years.
- A code of 5= age 18 or 19 years.
- A code of 0= none of the above.

The assessment of the mothers' age codes revealed the following:

- 411 (97.6%) of mothers were assigned the correct Parkyn code based on their date of birth;
- 9 (2.1%) did not have a date of birth entered on to the form. In all 9 of these cases, the Parkyn code that was assigned was "0 - none of the above". All 9 of these cases had a missing date of birth for the mother. An additional mother had a birth date on the form but was assigned an incorrect code for their age. The mother was assigned age 20+ when she was actually age 19.