

Scenarios considered by the pregnancy case identification algorithm

Search runs through data sequentially from earliest to latest records looking for evidence of successive pregnancies and setting start and end dates. For any fresh search for signs of a pregnancy there are five scenarios for type of first code found as tabulated below.

Table 1

Category of first code	Start date	End date	Search period	Effect of subsequent code	Note
1 Definite pregnancy WBS	Event date less time back value	Start date + gestlen weeks	From start date forwards for splong and splongext weeks	See Table 2	Can stand alone to signify pregnancy
2 LMP 1 st day	Event date	Start date + gestlen weeks	From start date forwards for splmp weeks	See Table 2	At least one further code in categories Definite pregnancy WBS / definite pregnancy / pregnancy delivered / pregnancy failed MUST be found within search period. If no confirmatory code found then this is not a pregnancy. Clear all dates and start new search from immediately after search period
3 Definite pregnancy**	Event date less tbackdef weeks	Start date + gestlen weeks	From start date forwards for splong and splongext weeks	See Table 2	Can stand alone to signify pregnancy
4 Pregnancy delivered	End date less tbackdel weeks	Event date	From end date forwards for spdel and spdelext weeks	See Table 2	Can stand alone to signify pregnancy
5 Pregnancy failed	End date less tbackfail weeks	Event date	From end date forwards for spfail and spfailext weeks	See Table 2	Can stand alone to signify pregnancy

One concept in this category: “62X.. length of gestation” was found to be associated with numeric values denoting number of weeks gestation. In this case, the numeric value was substituted for tbackdef where the associated value was > 5 and < 44

Table 2

Category of subsequent code	Effects of subsequent code				
	Definite pregnancy WBS	LMP 1 st day	Definite pregnancy	Pregnancy delivered	Pregnancy failed
Category of first code					
Definite pregnancy WBS	Where event date less time back value results in earlier date then push back start date and adjust end date / search period	Where event date results in earlier date then push back start date and adjust end date / search period	Where event date less tbackdef results in earlier date then push back start date and adjust end date / search period	If event date is earlier than End date then push back End date and adjust search period to end date + spdel and end date + spdelext weeks. Set calclen = end date – start date. If calclen < minlendl then push back start date to end date minus minlendl else Do NOT change start date	If event date is earlier than End date then push back End date and adjust search period to end date + spfail and end date + spfail ext weeks Set calclen = end date – start date. If calclen < minlenfail then push back start date to end date minus minlenfail else Do NOT change start date
LMP 1 st day	Validates LMP. Where event date less time back value results in earlier date then push back start date and adjust end date. Set search period to splong and splongext	Does not validate LMP in absence of other category code. Reject original LMP and start new search from this LMP.	Validates LMP. Where event date less time back value results in earlier date then push back start date and adjust end date. Set search period to splong and splongext	Validates LMP. If event date is earlier than End date then push back End date and adjust search period to end date + spdel weeks Set calclen = end date – start date. If calclen < minlendl then push back start date to end date minus	Validates LMP. If event date is earlier than End date then push back End date and adjust search period to end date + spfail weeks. Set calclen = end date – start date. If calclen < minlenfail then push back start date to end date minus

				minlendl else Do NOT change start date	minlenfail else Do NOT change start date
Definite pregnancy	Push back Start date and adjust end date / search period where event date less time back value results in earlier date	Where event date results in earlier date then push back start date and adjust end date / search period	Where event date less tbackdef results in earlier date then push back start date and adjust end date / search period	If event date is earlier than End date then push back End date and adjust search period to end date + spdel and end date + spdelext weeks Set calclen = end date – start date. If calclen < minlendl then push back start date to end date minus minlendl else Do NOT change start date	If event date is earlier than End date then push back End date and adjust search period to end date + spfail and end date + spfail ext weeks Set calclen = end date – start date. If calclen < minlenfail then push back start date to end date minus minlenfail else Do NOT change start date
Pregnancy delivered	No effect	No effect	No effect	No effect	No effect
Pregnancy failed	No effect	No effect	No effect	No effect	No effect