

## Method for Classifying Birthrate Plus® Categories by Scoring Clinical Factors in the Process and Outcome of Labour and Delivery

The Score Sheet is completed at the time that **the woman leaves the delivery suite**. All women in labour require careful monitoring of their physical condition, the process of their labour, accurate assessment of the condition of the foetus and sensitive emotional support. Such aspects of care are regarded as basic for all women. The scoring system is designed to identify and weight these fundamental requirements together with other key indicators of increased needs.

There are five [5] categories for mothers who have given birth during their time in the delivery suite [Categories I – V)

### **CATEGORY I**      **Score = 6**

This is the most normal and healthy outcome possible. A woman is defined as Category I [*lowest level of dependency*] if: The woman's pregnancy is of 37 weeks gestation or more, she is in labour for 8 hours or less; she achieves a normal delivery with an intact perineum; her baby has an Apgar score of 8+; and weighs more than 2.5kg; and she does not require or receive any further treatment and/or monitoring

### **CATEGORY II**      **Score = 7 – 9**

This is also a normal outcome, very similar to Category I, but usually with the perineal tear [score 2], or a length of labour of more than 8 hours [score 2]. IV Infusion [score 2] may also fall into this category if no other intervention. However, if more than one of these events happens, then the mother and baby outcome would be in Category III.

### **CATEGORY III**      **Score = 10 – 13**

Moderate risk/need such as Induction of Labour with syntocinon, instrumental deliveries will fall into this category, as may continuous fetal monitoring.

### **CATEGORY IV**      **Score = 14 –18**

More complicated cases affecting mother and/or baby will be in this category, such as elective caesarean section; pre-term births; low Apgar and birth weight. Women having epidural for pain relief and a normal delivery will also be Category IV.

### **CATEGORY V**      **Score = 19 or more**

This score is reached when the mother and/or baby require a very high degree of support or intervention, such as, emergency section, associated medical problem such as diabetes, stillbirth or multiple pregnancy, as well as unexpected intensive care needs post delivery.