



# Western Australian Coding Rule

## 1012/04 Stretch and sweep (induction)

### Q.

Should a procedure code be assigned for a stretch and sweep? Should it be assigned to surgical induction of labour?

### A.

To perform a membrane sweep, the examining fingers during a vaginal examination are introduced into the cervical os and passed circumferentially around the cervix. This should separate the membranes from their cervical attachment. This process of detaching the membranes from the decidua results in the release of local prostaglandins. This in turn will increase the probability of the onset of labour within 48 hours and of being delivered within one week. Massage of the cervix, around the vaginal fornices, can be used when the cervical os remains closed. This may also cause the release of local prostaglandin. The process can be repeated if labour does not start spontaneously after an appropriate time period, typically 36 hours.

### DECISION

**A stretch and sweep needs to be clearly documented as an induction of labour before being assigned to 90465-04 [1334] *Other surgical induction of labour*. If induction is not documented it should not be assumed that the stretch and sweep is being used as induction of labour.**

[Effective 26 Oct 2012, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 7<sup>th</sup> Ed.]