

Signs of Problems After Childbirth

During the first week after delivery call your health-care provider if you:

- Pass blood clots larger than a golf ball
- Soak a new pad each hour for 2 or more hours.
- Have bleeding that is still bright red for 4 days after giving birth.
- Have a temperature greater than 101.5 F
- Have new onset or additional abdominal pain
- Pass tissue (not just blood)
- Have a severe headache, visual problems, or sudden swelling of your face hands, or feet
- Have not had a bowel movement for 3 days after childbirth
- Have difficulty holding urine or do not feel the need to urinate
- Have increasing pain in the vagina, at your laceration site or your episiotomy site

During the first month after delivery call your health-care provider if you:

- Have vaginal discharge that is foul smelling
- Notice redness or sores on your breasts
- Notice bleeding from the nipples
- Have leakage of gas, stool or urine
- Think you might have stool or urine leaking from the vagina
- Have feelings of despair or hopelessness for more than a few days
- Have troubling or dangerous thoughts or hallucinations

During the first 6 months after delivery call your health-care provider if:

- You try to have intercourse and it hurts too much
- You feel like something is falling out of your vagina
- Any of the above symptoms continue

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