

When to Call the Doctor: Postpartum Red Flags

After giving birth, you'll need some time to recover. While you do, pay close attention to your body. You may notice signs that could mean your recovery is not going as planned. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following "red flag" symptoms.

1. Call your doctor if you have a fever of 100.4°F, or higher. 2. Call your doctor if you have heavy vaginal bleeding that soaks a sanitary pad in 1 hour and doesn't slow down. 3. Call your doctor if you pass a blood clot bigger than a golf ball or if you have bad-smelling discharge. 4. Call your doctor if you have ongoing problems using the bathroom, such as constipation or incontinence. 5. Call your doctor if you have breast pain with red spots or streaks, or breast pain that lasts a whole feeding. 6. Call your doctor if you experience: Dizziness; Fainting; Leg swelling; Or pain that does not get better, even with pain medicine.

If you think you may be having symptoms of a medical emergency, such as chest pain or shortness of breath, call 911 right away.

Remember: As you recover, call your doctor when you have: a fever of 100.4 or higher; heavy vaginal bleeding or bad smelling discharge; breast pain; other symptoms like constipation, dizziness, or swelling. And call 911 if you have chest pain or shortness of breath.