

# SAVE YOUR LIFE:

# Get Care for These POST-BIRTH Warning Signs

Most women who give birth recover without problems. **But any woman can have complications after giving birth.** Learning to recognize these POST-BIRTH warning signs and knowing what to do can save your life.

**POST-BIRTH WARNING SIGNS**

**Call 911**  
if you have:

- P**ain in chest
- O**bstructed breathing or shortness of breath
- S**eizures
- T**houghts of hurting yourself or someone else

**Call your healthcare provider**  
if you have:

(If you can't reach your healthcare provider, call 911 or go to an emergency room)

- B**leeding, soaking through one pad/hour, or blood clots, the size of an egg or bigger
- I**ncision that is not healing
- R**ed or swollen leg, that is painful or warm to touch
- T**emperature of 100.4°F or higher
- H**eadache that does not get better, even after taking medicine, or bad headache with vision changes

**Trust your instincts.**  
ALWAYS get medical care if you are not feeling well or have questions or concerns.

**Tell 911 or your healthcare provider:**

"I gave birth on \_\_\_\_\_ and  
(Date)  
I am having \_\_\_\_\_."  
(Specific warning signs)

**These post-birth warning signs can become life-threatening if you don't receive medical care right away because:**

- Pain in chest, obstructed breathing or shortness of breath** (trouble catching your breath) may mean you have a blood clot in your lung or a heart problem
- Seizures** may mean you have a condition called eclampsia
- Thoughts or feelings of wanting to hurt yourself or someone else** may mean you have postpartum depression
- Bleeding (heavy)**, soaking more than one pad in an hour or passing an egg-sized clot or bigger may mean you have an obstetric hemorrhage
- Incision that is not healing, increased redness or any pus** from episiotomy or C-section site may mean you have an infection
- Redness, swelling, warmth, or pain** in the calf area of your leg may mean you have a blood clot
- Temperature of 100.4°F or higher, bad smelling vaginal blood or discharge** may mean you have an infection
- Headache (very painful), vision changes, or pain in the upper right area of your belly** may mean you have high blood pressure or post birth preeclampsia

**GET HELP**

My Healthcare Provider/Clinic: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hospital Closest To Me: \_\_\_\_\_