

# 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 the birth of a baby.** Learning to recognize these POST-BIRTH warning signs and knowing what to do can save your life.



<p><b>Call 911</b> if you have:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>P</b>ain in chest</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>O</b>bstructed breathing or shortness of breath</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>S</b>eizures</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>T</b>houghts of hurting yourself or your baby</li> </ul>
<p><b>Call your healthcare provider</b> if you have:</p> <p>(If you can't reach your healthcare provider, call 911 or go to an emergency room)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>B</b>leeding, soaking through one pad/hour, or blood clots, the size of an egg or bigger</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>I</b>ncision that is not healing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>R</b>ed or swollen leg that is painful or warm to touch</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>T</b>emperature of 100.4°F or higher</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>H</b>eadache that does not get better, even after taking medicine, or bad headache with vision changes</li> </ul>



**Tell 911 or your healthcare provider:**

"I had a baby 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 your baby 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: \_\_\_\_\_