

Postpartum Areas of Concern

BABY

Temperature

- Axillary (underarm) temperature of less than 97 or greater than 99.6 degrees after clothing & room temperature have been adjusted.
- Baby's temperature keeps changing even when room temperature and clothing stay the same.

Respirations

- Fewer than 40 or more than 60 breaths per minute while resting.
- Labored breathing with grunting, retraction of the ribs, or flaring of nostrils.

Pulse

- Pulse outside normal range of 120 to 160 per minute taken while resting or quiet.

Elimination

- No passage of urine or stools in first 24 hours after birth.

Other signs

- Excessive sleepiness—sleep periods lasting longer than 6 hours after the first day
- Hyperirritability or extreme reaction to ordinary stimulation like diaper changing, picking him up, etc.
- Jaundice on the first day of life.
- Poor feeding, not at all interested in feeding, or exhausted by it.

MOTHER

Temperature

- Fever above 100 degrees after drinking lots of fluids.

Pulse

- Pulse greater than 100 per minute while resting, occurring twice in 1 or 2 hours.

Uterus

- Uterus remains soft, does not respond to massage.

Lochia

- Heavy bleeding—soaking large pads in less than 2 hours after the first 24 hours.
- Persistent passage of tissue (golf ball size or larger), foul smelling discharge

Other Signs

- Fainting; severe headache; severe pain in abdomen, legs, or chest; spots before the eyes; feelings of despair, great anxiety, or inability to cope.