



## Perinatal Mental Health Discussion Tool for Parents Experiencing Loss

As many as 1 in 7 moms (1 in 10 dads) experience symptoms of depression and anxiety during the postpartum period. People of every age, income level, race and culture can develop Perinatal Mood Disorders (PMDs) during pregnancy and within the first year after delivery. Parents who are grieving the loss of a child may experience many of these symptoms, which is a normal part of the grieving process. If the symptoms worsen or persist for longer than two weeks you may be experiencing a mood disorder. This tool can help track your symptoms and be a resource to help you discuss them with your medical provider. Being your own advocate is okay and you deserve to be well.

### I have been experiencing the following symptoms: (please mark all that apply)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Feeling depressed or void of feeling                      | <input type="radio"/> Extreme worries or fears                                      |
| <input type="radio"/> Feelings of hopelessness                                  | <input type="radio"/> Flashbacks regarding the pregnancy or delivery                |
| <input type="radio"/> Lack of interest in things that once brought you pleasure | <input type="radio"/> Avoiding things related to the pregnancy or delivery          |
| <input type="radio"/> Trouble concentrating                                     | <input type="radio"/> Scary and unwanted thoughts                                   |
| <input type="radio"/> Brain feels foggy   | <input type="radio"/> Feeling an urge to repeat certain behaviors to reduce anxiety |
| <input type="radio"/> Not wanting to eat  | <input type="radio"/> Needing very little sleep while still functioning             |
| <input type="radio"/> Feeling anxious or panicky                                | <input type="radio"/> Feeling more energetic than usual                             |
| <input type="radio"/> Feeling angry or irritable                                | <input type="radio"/> Seeing images or hearing sounds that others cannot see/hear   |
| <input type="radio"/> Dizziness or heart palpitations                           | <input type="radio"/> Thoughts of harming yourself                                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Not able to sleep   |   |

## Risk Factors

Below are several risk factors associated with postpartum depression (PPD), postpartum anxiety (PPA), and postpartum PTSD. Knowing these risk factors ahead of time can help you communicate more effectively with your family and medical provider and put a strong self-care plan in place.

### Please mark all risk factors that apply:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Pregnancy or infant loss              | <input type="radio"/> Birth of Multiples          |
| <input type="radio"/> History of depression or anxiety      | <input type="radio"/> Baby in the NICU            |
| <input type="radio"/> History of bipolar disorder           | <input type="radio"/> Relationship issues         |
| <input type="radio"/> History of psychosis                  | <input type="radio"/> Financial struggles         |
| <input type="radio"/> History of diabetes or thyroid issues | <input type="radio"/> Single mother               |
| <input type="radio"/> History of PMS                        | <input type="radio"/> Teen mother                 |
| <input type="radio"/> History of sexual trauma or abuse     | <input type="radio"/> No or little social support |
| <input type="radio"/> Family history of mental illness      | <input type="radio"/> Away from home country      |
| <input type="radio"/> Traumatic pregnancy or delivery       |   |

## RESOURCES

[www.postpartum.net](http://www.postpartum.net)

- **PSI Helpline:** For local resources please call or text "HELP" 800.944.4773. We can provide information, encouragement, and names of resources near you.
- **FREE Psychiatric Consult Line:** Your medical provider can call 877.499.4773 and speak with a reproductive psychiatrist to learn about medications commonly used in the perinatal time period. For more detailed information please visit: <http://www.postpartum.net/professionals/perinatal-psychiatric-consult-line/>