

## Your Recovery After Vaginal Birth Part 2



### Peri Care

Keep the perineal area clean to prevent infection and stop odor. This is called peri care. You will be given a plastic bottle to fill with warm water. Each time you use the toilet, use the plastic bottle to squirt warm water over your perineal area. Let air dry or gently blot with toilet paper. Change your sanitary pad each time you use the toilet. Wash your hands with soap and water.

### Showering

A shower may feel good and help you relax. Have someone help you with the first shower.



### Going Home from the Hospital

Your nurse will help you prepare to go home with your baby. Information will be given to you on how to care for yourself and your baby.



Your care may include:

- Limit the number of times you climb stairs each day.
- Lift nothing heavier than your baby.

- Get help doing housework for at least 2 weeks.
- Do not drive a car for 2 weeks.
- Do not have sexual relations until approved by your doctor. Talk to your doctor about birth control. Breastfeeding does not prevent you from becoming pregnant.
- Do not go back to work until approved by your doctor.

### Call your doctor right away if you have:

- A fever over 100.4 degrees F or 38 degrees C.
- Signs of a breast infection such as fever, tenderness, redness, or a hot, hardened area, on one or both breasts.
- Heavy vaginal bleeding where you soak one sanitary pad per hour for two hours or have large blood clots.
- Vaginal bleeding that changes color turning bright red after it has lightened and changed from pink to brown or clear.
- Foul smelling vaginal discharge—a normal discharge smells like your menstrual period.
- Problems urinating including trouble starting, burning or pain.
- No bowel movements for 3 days.
- A hot, hard spot in your leg or pain in your lower leg.
- Severe or constant pain or cramping.



- A headache, blurred vision or spots before your eyes that will not go away.
- Feelings of being very sad or feel you want to hurt yourself or your baby.

**Call your doctor the first few days after you get home to schedule a follow up visit in 4 to 6 weeks. Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.**

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