

# Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale<sup>1</sup> (EPDS)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Baby's Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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As you are pregnant or have recently had a baby, we would like to know how you are feeling. Please check the answer that comes closest to how you have felt **IN THE PAST 7 DAYS**, not just how you feel today.

Here is an example, already completed.

I have felt happy:

- Yes, all the time
- Yes, most of the time      This would mean: "I have felt happy most of the time" during the past week.
- No, not very often      Please complete the other questions in the same way.
- No, not at all

In the past 7 days:

- 1. I have been able to laugh and see the funny side of things
  - As much as I always could
  - Not quite so much now
  - Definitely not so much now
  - Not at all
- 2. I have looked forward with enjoyment to things
  - As much as I ever did
  - Rather less than I used to
  - Definitely less than I used to
  - Hardly at all
- \*3. I have blamed myself unnecessarily when things went wrong
  - Yes, most of the time
  - Yes, some of the time
  - Not very often
  - No, never
- 4. I have been anxious or worried for no good reason
  - No, not at all
  - Hardly ever
  - Yes, sometimes
  - Yes, very often
- \*5. I have felt scared or panicky for no very good reason
  - Yes, quite a lot
  - Yes, sometimes
  - No, not much
  - No, not at all
- \*6. Things have been getting on top of me
  - Yes, most of the time I haven't been able to cope at all
  - Yes, sometimes I haven't been coping as well as usual
  - No, most of the time I have coped quite well
  - No, I have been coping as well as ever
- \*7. I have been so unhappy that I have had difficulty sleeping
  - Yes, most of the time
  - Yes, sometimes
  - Not very often
  - No, not at all
- \*8. I have felt sad or miserable
  - Yes, most of the time
  - Yes, quite often
  - Not very often
  - No, not at all
- \*9. I have been so unhappy that I have been crying
  - Yes, most of the time
  - Yes, quite often
  - Only occasionally
  - No, never
- \*10. The thought of harming myself has occurred to me
  - Yes, quite often
  - Sometimes
  - Hardly ever
  - Never

Administered/Reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup>Source: Cox, J.L., Holden, J.M., and Sagovsky, R. 1987. Detection of postnatal depression: Development of the 10-item Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale. *British Journal of Psychiatry* 150:782-786 .

<sup>2</sup>Source: K. L. Wisner, B. L. Parry, C. M. Piontek, Postpartum Depression N Engl J Med vol. 347, No 3, July 18, 2002, 194-199

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# Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale<sup>1</sup> (EPDS)

Postpartum depression is the most common complication of childbearing.<sup>2</sup> The 10-question Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS) is a valuable and efficient way of identifying patients at risk for "perinatal" depression. The EPDS is easy to administer and has proven to be an effective screening tool.

Mothers who score above 13 are likely to be suffering from a depressive illness of varying severity. The EPDS score should not override clinical judgment. A careful clinical assessment should be carried out to confirm the diagnosis. The scale indicates how the mother has felt *during the previous week*. In doubtful cases it may be useful to repeat the tool after 2 weeks. The scale will not detect mothers with anxiety neuroses, phobias or personality disorders.

Women with postpartum depression need not feel alone. They may find useful information on the web sites of the National Women's Health Information Center <[www.4women.gov](http://www.4women.gov)> and from groups such as Postpartum Support International <[www.chss.iup.edu/postpartum](http://www.chss.iup.edu/postpartum)> and Depression after Delivery <[www.depressionafterdelivery.com](http://www.depressionafterdelivery.com)>.

## SCORING

### QUESTIONS 1, 2, & 4 (without an \*)

Are scored 0, 1, 2 or 3 with top box scored as 0 and the bottom box scored as 3.

### QUESTIONS 3, 5-10 (marked with an \*)

Are reverse scored, with the top box scored as a 3 and the bottom box scored as 0.

Maximum score: 30  
Possible Depression: 10 or greater  
Always look at item 10 (suicidal thoughts)

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## Instructions for using the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale:

1. The mother is asked to check the response that comes closest to how she has been feeling in the previous 7 days.
2. All the items must be completed.
3. Care should be taken to avoid the possibility of the mother discussing her answers with others. (Answers come from the mother or pregnant woman.)
4. The mother should complete the scale herself, unless she has limited English or has difficulty with reading.

<sup>1</sup>Source: Cox, J.L., Holden, J.M., and Sagovsky, R. 1987. Detection of postnatal depression: Development of the 10-item Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale. *British Journal of Psychiatry* 150:782-786.

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PATIENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

REASON FOR TODAY'S VISIT: \_\_\_\_\_ LMP: \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>General</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Weight Loss <input type="checkbox"/> Weight Gain <input type="checkbox"/> Fever / Chills <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue / Weakness	<p><b>Breast</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Nipple Discharge <input type="checkbox"/> Lumps/ Nodules <input type="checkbox"/> Pain/ Tenderness <input type="checkbox"/> Breast Masses <input type="checkbox"/> Nipple Bleeding	<p><b>Gynecologic</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Break through Bleeding <input type="checkbox"/> Labial Sores <input type="checkbox"/> Labial lumps/nodules <input type="checkbox"/> Vaginal Discharge <input type="checkbox"/> Vaginal Itching <input type="checkbox"/> Painful Intercourse <input type="checkbox"/> Menstrual Cramps <input type="checkbox"/> Pain between periods <input type="checkbox"/> Postmenopausal Bleeding <input type="checkbox"/> Irregular menses <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of Sexual Desire <input type="checkbox"/> Night Sweats <input type="checkbox"/> Vaginal Odor <input type="checkbox"/> Pelvic Pain <input type="checkbox"/> Infertility Problems
<p><b>Skin</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Nail Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Hair Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Mole Changes <input type="checkbox"/> Skin Rashes <input type="checkbox"/> Itchy Skin	<p><b>LUNGS</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Cough <input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of Breath <input type="checkbox"/> Wheezing	<p><b>Musculoskeletal</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Muscle Pain/ Cramps <input type="checkbox"/> Weakness <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Pain/Swelling
<p><b>Eyes</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Blurred / Double Vision <input type="checkbox"/> Glaucoma / Cataracts <input type="checkbox"/> Dry or itchy eyes <input type="checkbox"/> Eye glasses or contacts	<p><b>HEART</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Murmur <input type="checkbox"/> Irregular Heartbeat <input type="checkbox"/> Palpitations <input type="checkbox"/> Chest pain	<p><b>Neurological</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Seizures <input type="checkbox"/> Vertigo <input type="checkbox"/> Paralysis <input type="checkbox"/> Tingling/Numbness
<p><b>Ears</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Hard of Hearing <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing changes / Deafness <input type="checkbox"/> Ringing in ears <input type="checkbox"/> Ear Discharge <input type="checkbox"/> Earache <input type="checkbox"/> Dizziness	<p><b>GASTROINTESTINAL</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Change in appetite <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty swallowing <input type="checkbox"/> Abdominal Pain <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea / Vomiting <input type="checkbox"/> Bloating/Gas <input type="checkbox"/> Heartburn <input type="checkbox"/> Constipation <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea <input type="checkbox"/> Hemorrhoids <input type="checkbox"/> Rectal Bleeding	<p><b>Psychiatric</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Depression <input type="checkbox"/> Irritability <input type="checkbox"/> Anxiousness <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol Abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Suicidal Thoughts <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Difficulties <input type="checkbox"/> Panic Attack <input type="checkbox"/> Drug Addition <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Abuse
<p><b>Nose</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Sinus Congestion <input type="checkbox"/> Runny Nose <input type="checkbox"/> Post Nasal Drip	<p><b>Genitourinary</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Urgency <input type="checkbox"/> Incontinence <input type="checkbox"/> Urinary frequency <input type="checkbox"/> Pain with urination <input type="checkbox"/> Bloody urine <input type="checkbox"/> Urination at night	<p><b>Endocrine</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Heat Intolerance <input type="checkbox"/> Cold Intolerance <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of Hair <input type="checkbox"/> Extreme Thirst <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive Hair Growth <input type="checkbox"/> Hypoglycemia/Low Blood Sugar
<p><b>Mouth</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Bleeding Gums <input type="checkbox"/> Oral sores/ulcers <input type="checkbox"/> Dental Problems <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of Taste	<p><b>Blood</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Anemia <input type="checkbox"/> Prolonged Bleeding <input type="checkbox"/> Swollen Lymph Nodes <input type="checkbox"/> Painful Lymph Nodes	
<p><b>Throat</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty swallowing <input type="checkbox"/> Throat pain <input type="checkbox"/> Hoarseness		
<p><b>Neck</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Stiffness <input type="checkbox"/> Soreness <input type="checkbox"/> Pain <input type="checkbox"/> Masses		

Do you have any concerns that this update did not cover? \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking the time to provide this information.