

Your birth plan is all ready, but have you considered what you'd do about

# childbed fever?

**Childbed fever is an infection of the womb in new mothers which can lead to septicaemia.**

If you think it is a disease of the past, you're wrong.

Childbed fever infections are rare, but they can happen to anybody, and can be fatal: 14% of maternal deaths are due to septicaemia.<sup>1</sup>

The symptoms of infection are usually easy to recognise and, if caught at an early stage, generally respond well to antibiotics.

But if left untreated infection can cause organ failure & death - even in young, fit mothers.

*For you and your family's sake*

*please, make sure you're aware*

*of the symptoms, and of the importance of prompt treatment*

## **Possible symptoms of childbed fever in a new mum**

- Headache, feeling generally unwell
- Sore throat
- Raised temperature
- Fast pulse (100+ beats per minute)
- Fast breathing
- Offensive vaginal discharge
- Rash
- Vomiting and/or diarrhoea
- Abdominal/leg pains

**If you have two or more of these symptoms, especially if they are getting worse, or if you are in any doubt, please call your GP or midwife, or go to hospital immediately.**



*Jessica's Trust*

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<sup>1</sup> Lewis, G (ed) 2007. The Confidential Enquiry into Maternal and Child Health (CEMACH). Saving Mothers' Lives: reviewing maternal deaths to make motherhood safer - 2003-2005. The Seventh Report on Confidential Enquiries into Maternal Deaths in the United Kingdom. London: CEMACH.

*raising awareness of childbed fever*  
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