



Bleeding in Early Pregnancy

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center

Information for Patients

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Many women have some bleeding from the vagina in pregnancy. Sometimes the pregnancy continues with no ill effects. But bleeding could be an early sign of miscarriage. If you are pregnant and have bleeding, call your doctor or midwife.

Symptoms to watch for

- If you have any **bleeding**, apply a pad and call your doctor or midwife. Write down the time and the amount of bleeding. Call the doctor or midwife again if you have to change your pad more often than once an hour. Rest with your feet up until the bleeding slows down.
- If you have **cramping** with the bleeding, you can take acetaminophen (such as Tylenol).
- If you pass **anything that looks like tissue** onto the pad or into the toilet, call your doctor. He or she probably will have you come to the emergency department. You will be asked to bring a sample of the tissue with you.
- If you have a **fever** of 101 F or higher, call your doctor.

If you call your doctor or midwife with any of these symptoms, he or she probably will want to examine you. You also may need to have blood tests.

If you have any questions or concerns about these symptoms, talk to your doctor or midwife.

This educational material was developed by a team of women's health care experts throughout UPMC, including Magee-Womens Hospital, a National Center of Excellence in Women's Health as designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For help in finding a doctor or health service that suits your needs, call the UPMC Referral Service at 412-647-UPMC (8762) or 800-533-UPMC (8762).