

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