

# *North Carolina Women's Hospital*

## **Common Problems in Pregnancy and Recommended Treatments**

**If these recommendations are not helpful or if they instruct you to call, use the numbers you have previously been given or call \_\_\_\_\_.**

Fever (temperature of 100° or above)	Take <i>Tylenol</i> ®*, <i>Extra-Strength Tylenol</i> ®*, or any aspirin-free pain reliever (acetaminophen). Avoid aspirin products, which could cause bleeding problems for mother and baby. Also <u>avoid ibuprofen products</u> , such as <i>Advil</i> ®, <i>Motrin</i> ® or <i>Aleve</i> ® unless your doctor or nurse specifically recommends these drugs. If your temperature is over 101° F (38.3° C) call the clinic.
Indigestion or Heartburn	Take <i>Mylanta</i> ®*, <i>Maalox</i> ®*, <i>Roloids</i> ®*, or <i>Tums</i> ®*. The recommended dose is 1-2 teaspoons or tablets (chewed) between meals and at bedtime, not to exceed 10 tablets or teaspoons in 24 hours. Avoid fatty, fried and highly seasoned foods, such as fried chicken, ham or chili. Eat 5-6 small meals a day instead of 3 big meals.
Nausea or Vomiting—also see the handout “Nausea and Vomiting of Early Pregnancy” for some helpful ideas.	Take sips of juice, coca-cola, gingerale, or a Gatorade®-like product at least 4 times an hour. If you are unable to keep fluids in your stomach for 8 hours, call the clinic or hospital. Eat only small amounts of food at frequent intervals once your stomach starts settling.
Constipation	Increase intake of water and high-fiber foods, such as bran cereals, oatmeal, leafy green vegetables, fruits, fruit juices, and prunes. If problem does not improve, take <i>Colace</i> ®* 100mg or <i>Metamucil</i> * (1 packet or rounded teaspoon mixed with juice every morning or at bedtime). Do not use laxatives.
Hemorrhoids	Use <i>Anusol</i> ®* suppository, <i>Tucks</i> ®* or <i>Dermoplast</i> ® *. Sit in warm water for 30 minutes twice per day. Air-dry, sleep without underpants. To avoid getting constipated, drink 8-10 glasses of water a day. Refer to the recommendations under #4.
Diarrhea	Drink only clear liquids, Gatorade®, coke or gingerale, and eat jello for 24 hours. As diarrhea improves, gradually add foods to the diet, waiting to add milk until last. Take <i>Kaopectate</i> ®* or <i>Donnagel PG</i> ®* according to directions, but call if problem does not resolve within a day.
Cough	For cough, take <i>Robitussin</i> ®* (plain or DM). Drink plenty of water and fruit juices. If cough persists or gets worse after 2-3 days, call our clinic.
Cold, Nasal Congestion, Head Cold	Increase fluid intake. May use Tylenol for headache. If a decongestant is needed, may use Afrin nasal spray, 2 doses per day not to exceed 3 days. In the second and third trimesters, if blood pressure is normal, may use Actifed or Sudafed 30-60mg every 6 hours, not to exceed 3 doses daily.
Sore Throat	Gargle with warm salt-water solution (one teaspoon salt to one quart water) or use Chloroseptic ®* spray. If your temperature is over 101° F (38.3° C), call the clinic.
Nosebleeds	Apply ice pack to nose. During winter, increase moisture in air with humidifier or pan of water on heating stove and use saline nasal spray. The pharmacist can help you with this.

Vaginal Discharge	Wear cotton underpants or those with cotton-lined crotch. Avoid tight fitting clothing. Avoid pantyhose and tight jeans. Sit in tub of warm water with 1 cup of baking soda added, 2 times per day. Sleep without underpants. Monistat ®* may be used if you believe you have a yeast infection; if you are unsure, call the clinic.
Painful Urination	Let the clinic know at once if you have burning or pain with urination. This could be the symptom of a serious infection.
Leg Swelling	Elevate legs above waist. Wear support hose and well fitting shoes. Rest for 30 minutes on the left side. If you notice tender, red, swellings, seek care at once.
Toothache	Take Tylenol ®* or any aspirin-free pain reliever (acetaminophen) for minor occasional toothache. Avoid ibuprofen products, such as Advil ®, Motrin ®, or Aleve ® unless your doctor or nurse specifically recommends these drugs. Contact a dentist as soon as possible for further treatment. If the dentist requires an authorizing statement, please call the OB Clinic.
Routine or Emergency Dental Care	Do not avoid dental care during pregnancy. The following precautions will assure safety: if you need an x-ray, be sure you are properly shielded; if you need a local anesthetic, request that it not include epinephrine; if you need pain medicine, take extra strength Tylenol®; if this is not enough relief and you have no allergies to codeine, ask the dentist to write a prescription for Tylenol # 3®. If you have been advised to take antibiotics around the time of dental care, you should do this when you are pregnant, too.

*\* A cheaper product sold under the drug store brand name may be used instead. Ask the pharmacist.*

- If problems persist or worsen after recommended treatment, please call to speak to a provider using the numbers provided on the front of this sheet.
- Refer to the prenatal book you were given when you started prenatal care to learn more about common discomforts of pregnancy and the warning signs of serious problems.

Approved by UNC Women's Hospital Patient Education Steering Committee on 01/23/05, revised 11/13/2008.