Information

Symptoms

Persistent, unjustified worry (general)

Persistent, unjustified worry about:

- O Attachment/relationship with baby
- o Maternal competence
- O Infant safety and welfare
- O Practical infant care
- o Childbirth
- O Psychosocial adjustment to motherhood
- O Support as a mother
- O Pregnancy/postpartum appearance

Irritability

Obsessive and intrusive negative thoughts

Checking behaviours (to neutralise negative thoughts)

Difficulty concentrating/'brain fog'

Sleep disturbance and/or difficulty relaxing (unrelated to baby's needs)

Mental symptoms of panic (e.g. feeling like something terrible is about to happen)

Somatic symptoms of panic (e.g. tension, palpitations, butterflies, hyperventilating, dizziness etc)

Agitation and restlessness

Avoidance of reminders of or talking about birth

Disturbing images, flashbacks or nightmares about birth

Risk factors

Pre-natal mood disorder (or previous experience of mental health issues)

1st time mother

Stress during pregnancy

Unplanned/unwanted pregnancy

Negative child birth experience

Infant born <27weeks, or admitted to the NICU

Previous loss of (or serious complications with) child/pregnancy

Poor maternal self-efficacy/ low self esteem

Poor social support/ relationship satisfaction

Previous traumatic (or highly stressful) life events (e.g. abuse,

death/illness, redundancy, relationship breakdown etc...

Current/past substance use (smoking, drugs, alcohol)

Impact

Impact on the mother

Difficulty fulfilling family roles

Diminished responsiveness to infant cues

Attachment difficulties with their baby/other children

Fear of having another baby

Financial worries due to inability to work
Poor self-care, including following through with healthcare
recommendations
Increased risk for future episodes of anxiety
Relationship issues/sexual dysfunction
Impact on the infant
Feeding problems/reduced breastfeeding duration
Increased fussiness and sleep problems (including colic)
Adverse effects on cognitive and social development
Lower birthweight
Emotional and conduct problems (but not associated with
hyperactivity)

Available help
Mothers tools
Tests (e.g. Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale)
Myths about motherhood (dispelling unrealistic expectations of
mothers)
Stigma surrounding PNI (i.e. confronting stigma and promoting help-
seeking behaviour)
How to gain access to/understand medical notes
What to say to healthcare professionals (including letters)
How to seek help
Standard self-help (i.e. limited advice on nutrition, sleep, exercise and
asking others for help)
Tips for family
Relaxation techniques
Coping strategies
How to think (e.g. advice on positive thinking)
PNI issues
Prevention
Stories
Mothers support
Forum
Email/letter
Chat
Personal messaging (a private message sent to another user in a
forum or chat room)
Telephone
Group meetings
Home visits
Referrals
Social media support
App(s)
Additional resources
Links
Downloads

Audio/visual

Podcasts
Contacts
Articles/research
Book recommendations
Quotes/poems
Generic social media site (i.e. does not offer support)
Blogs
Newsletter/e-Bulletin