

# Diagnosis of Vaginal Bleeding

Presenting Symptom and Other Symptoms and Signs Typically Present	Symptoms and Signs Sometimes Present	Probable Diagnosis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Immediate PPH<sup>a</sup></li> <li>▪ Uterus soft and not contracted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shock</li> </ul>	<u>Atonic uterus</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Immediate PPH<sup>a</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Complete placenta</li> <li>▪ Uterus contracted</li> </ul>	<u>Tears of cervix, vagina or perineum</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Placenta not delivered within 30 minutes after delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Immediate PPH<sup>a</sup></li> <li>▪ Uterus contracted</li> </ul>	<u>Retained placenta</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Portion of maternal surface of placenta missing or torn membranes with vessels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Immediate PPH<sup>a</sup></li> <li>▪ Uterus contracted</li> </ul>	<u>Retained placental fragments</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Uterine fundus not felt on abdominal palpation</li> <li>▪ Slight or intense pain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inverted uterus apparent at vulva</li> <li>▪ Immediate PPH<sup>b</sup></li> </ul>	<u>Inverted uterus</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bleeding occurs more than 24 hours after delivery</li> <li>▪ Uterus softer and larger than expected for elapsed time since delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bleeding is variable (light or heavy, continuous or irregular) and foul-smelling</li> <li>▪ Anaemia</li> </ul>	<u>Delayed PPH</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Immediate PPH<sup>a</sup> (bleeding is intra-abdominal and/or vaginal)</li> <li>▪ Severe abdominal pain (may decrease after rupture)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shock</li> <li>▪ Tender abdomen</li> <li>▪ Rapid maternal pulse</li> </ul>	<u>Ruptured uterus</u>

<sup>a</sup> Bleeding may be light if a clot blocks the cervix or if the woman is lying on her back.

<sup>b</sup> There may be no bleeding with complete inversion.

