Dear EZIZ Users,

During pregnancy, women are more susceptible to influenza and serious flu complications, including hospitalization, premature delivery and death. As influenza season continues, please:

- Strongly recommend flu vaccine to all pregnant women in any trimester.

- Promptly treat all pregnant and postpartum women (up to two weeks) with suspected influenza with a neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral. While antiviral drugs work best when treatment is started within 2 days of illness onset, clinical benefit has been observed even when treatment is initiated later. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a Health Advisory through its Health Alert Network (HAN): Seasonal Influenza A (H3N2) Activity and Antiviral Treatment of Patients with Influenza on December 27, 2017.

- When influenza is suspected, do not wait for test results to begin treatment with antivirals. Treatment should begin promptly. See ACOG and SMFM's Influenza Season Assessment and Treatment for Pregnant Women with ILI Algorithm.

For flu patient education materials, please see: http://eziz.org/resources/flu-promo-materials/. You may also want to share Samantha’s story, about a mother who was unconscious due to severe influenza during her baby’s birth.