

## MENOPAUSE IN THE BAHAMAS

### What Every Bahamian Woman Deserves to Know

A comprehensive guide to understanding menopause in the Bahamas, addressing the current healthcare landscape, challenges women face, and actionable steps toward better support and care for Bahamian women experiencing menopause.





### Hot Flashes in Paradise?

It's not just the sun, sis. If you're over 40 and feeling moody, sweaty, sleepless, foggy, or just "off"—you're not alone. You might be sailing through perimenopause or full-on menopause, and guess what? Bahamian healthcare isn't quite sailing with you yet.

Menopause affects every woman differently, but in the Bahamas, many women experience these changes without adequate healthcare support. The symptoms–from hot flashes to mood swings–can significantly impact quality of life, yet conversations about menopause remain limited in Bahamian society and healthcare settings.

# Here's What's Actually Available to You Right Now

### **Primary Care**

Your GP (if you have one) might mention menopause—if you bring it up first.

### **Specialists**

OB/GYNs in Nassau & Freeport offer limited specialist care for hormone health.

### **Private Options**

Some private clinics offer Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT), but it's often expensive and not covered by insurance.

National Health Insurance (NHI) covers general check-ups and labs-but no dedicated menopause care or hormone support as of 2025. Pharmacies do stock HRT, but the guidance provided is inconsistent and often inadequate.

Reference: NHI Bahamas Benefit Schedule 2024; Ministry of Health Bahamas





# What's Missing (AKA: The Big Coconut-Sized Gaps)

#### No Public Infrastructure

No public menopause clinics or national programs exist to address women's midlife health needs.

### **Education Gaps**

No menopause education for doctors or nurses, resulting in inadequate care.

### **Limited Coverage**

No hormone panels covered under standard NHI labs, making diagnosis difficult.

### **Cultural Silence**

Cultural shame and lack of open discussion leads to women suffering in silence.

The absence of mental health care linked to hormonal shifts further compounds these issues, leaving Bahamian women without comprehensive support during this significant life transition.



## Why This Matters

70%

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### **Symptom Rate**

Of Bahamian women report menopause symptoms by age 50

### **Health Risks**

Major conditions with increased risk: depression, osteoporosis, heart disease

### **Economic Impact**

Women lose valuable work hours, income, and quality of life

When menopause symptoms go unmanaged, the consequences extend beyond physical discomfort. Women's professional lives, personal relationships, and long-term health outcomes are all affected. The lack of appropriate care creates a significant public health issue that deserves immediate attention.

Reference: WHO Caribbean Women's Health Report, 2023





## The Good News: Yes, There's Hope!

YOU can demand better care—and together, we can build it.



### **National Menopause Clinic**

Advocate for a pilot program under NHI



### **Healthcare Training**

Push for menopause training for local healthcare workers



#### **Affordable Treatment**

Campaign for accessible HRT and holistic options



### **Community Support**

Develop support groups and wellness workshops for women

By raising awareness and advocating for these changes, we can transform the menopause experience for Bahamian women and create a healthcare system that truly supports women through all life stages.

# Let's Talk, Learn & Demand Together

- E Email: menoluxhealthandwellness@gmail.com
- ♠ Ask your NHI provider: "What menopause support do you cover?"
- © Share your story–it's time.

Because every Bahamian woman deserves to age in wisdom, not in silence.

Join our movement to break the silence around menopause in the Bahamas. By connecting, sharing experiences, and advocating together, we can create meaningful change in healthcare policies and cultural attitudes toward women's midlife health.

