



*Revised October 2024*

## **Patient Transfusion Information Sheet- Exposure to RhD incompatible LTOWB or RBC**

You recently received an emergency transfusion of whole blood or red blood cells (RBCs) to help save your life.

### **What is Rh(D)?**

Rh(D) is a protein found on the surface of red blood cells. If your blood has this protein, you are considered Rh(D) positive. If your blood does not have the protein, you are Rh(D) negative. The "+" or "-" sign you might see after your blood type indicates whether you are Rh(D) positive or negative.

### **Why is this Important for Me to Know?**

You have an Rh(D) negative blood type, but the blood you received was Rh(D) positive. This means there is a small chance your body could produce antibodies against Rh(D), called anti-D antibodies. This process is known as alloimmunization.

While these antibodies won't affect your own health, they could pose a risk during future pregnancies. If you have anti-D antibodies, they could cause hemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn (HDFN), which may lead to low blood counts (anemia) in the baby during pregnancy. With early and proper prenatal care, HDFN can be managed and treated successfully.

### **What Should I Do Next?**

You should have a blood test called a Type and Screen to check whether you have developed anti-D antibodies. If you have, your healthcare team will give you more information on what steps to take in the future, especially if you are planning a pregnancy.

In the meantime, we recommend learning about what to expect in pregnancies affected by anti-D antibodies. You can find helpful resources and information at The Allo Hope Foundation website: [www.allohopefoundation.org](http://www.allohopefoundation.org). You can also reach out with any questions to Katie at The Allo Hope Foundation: [katie@allohopefoundation.org](mailto:katie@allohopefoundation.org).

For any immediate questions, please contact your healthcare provider (insert contact information).