

Template 1

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

You received a blood transfusion with whole blood or red blood cells. This blood transfusion was provided emergently to help save your life.

What is Rh(D)?

Rh(D) is a protein found on the outside of red blood cells. If your blood has the protein, you are Rh(D) positive. If your blood does not have the protein, you are Rh(D) negative. The “+” or “-“ you might see after your blood type shows if you are Rh positive or negative.

Why is this important for me to know?

- You have an Rh(D) negative blood type, and you received Rh(D) positive blood.
- Because of this, you have a small chance of making anti-Rh(D) (anti-D) antibodies (also called alloimmunization).
- If you develop anti-D antibodies, they generally do not cause health problems on their own. However, they are important for both future blood transfusions and pregnancies.
- If you make anti-D antibodies, your healthcare team and blood bank should be notified if you need a blood transfusion in the future, so they can select blood that is safe and compatible for you.
- If you make anti-D antibodies, your future pregnancies could be affected by hemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn (HDFN), which can cause the baby to develop low blood counts (fetal anemia) during pregnancy.
- With adequate and timely perinatal care, HDFN is a temporary, treatable condition.

What happens next?

- You should have a blood test called a “Type and Screen” to check if you have made anti-D antibodies.
- If you make anti-D antibodies your medical team will provide more information regarding what to do in the future. In the meantime, you can learn more about what to expect in future pregnancies affected by anti-D antibodies by visiting The Allo Hope Foundation at www.allohopefoundation.org
- If you have any questions, please contact [ENTER CENTER-SPECIFIC INFORMATION]

Template 2

Patient Transfusion Information Sheet- Alloimmunization

You received a blood transfusion with a product called whole blood or RBCs. This blood transfusion was provided emergently to help save your life.

Why is this important for me to know?

- Your Rh(D) type does not match the Rh(D) type of the whole blood or RBCs that was transfused. You have an Rh(D) negative blood type, and you received Rh(D) positive blood.
- The results of your recent blood testing indicate you have developed antibodies to Rh(D), also called anti-D antibodies.
- This condition is called RhD alloimmunization.
- Anti-D antibodies generally do not cause health problems on their own. However, they are important for both future blood transfusions and pregnancies.
- If you need a blood transfusion in the future, it is important for your healthcare team and the blood bank to know that you have anti-D. This information will help them select blood that is safe and compatible for you.
- Anti-D can also affect a future pregnancy by causing a condition called hemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn or HDFN.
- HDFN is temporary and can be treated with adequate and timely perinatal care.

What should we do next?

- It is important to notify your primary care physician and obstetric care providers of the results of this test.
- If you are considering another pregnancy, consider scheduling a preconception consultation with a maternal-fetal medicine (MFM) specialist experienced in managing alloimmunized pregnancies. This can help you understand your risks and develop a monitoring and treatment plan before becoming pregnant.
- If you become pregnant in the future, notify your obstetric provider about your anti-D antibodies as early as possible in the pregnancy.
- Make sure your anti-D antibody history is shared with your healthcare team if you ever need a blood transfusion or receive care at a new hospital or healthcare system.
- Even if an antibody is not detected on a future blood test, your history of anti-D remains important for transfusion decisions and prenatal care.

How does HDFN affect a pregnancy?

- Treatments for HDFN during pregnancy could include blood tests, ultrasounds, and blood Transfusions
- Long term outcomes for infants with HDFN are very good with proper perinatal care

Where can I find more information?

- Please visit The Allo Hope Foundation at www.allohopefoundation.org. Their website provides free resources, education and support to women with alloimmunization. They can also help identify a specialist near you you become pregnant in the future.
- If you require additional information, please contact your local MD **ENTER CENTER-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**