

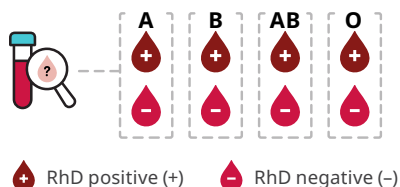
Fetal RHD Screening

A Guide for Pregnant Women/Individuals Who Are RhD Negative



Your Blood Type and Your Baby's Blood Type Are Important in Pregnancy

If you are RhD negative, Fetal RHD screening can help you find out early in pregnancy if your baby has a different blood type than you. This can help you and a health-care provider make important treatment decisions.



Blood Type and RhD

A health-care provider will check your blood type early in your pregnancy. There are four main blood types: A, B, AB and O. Each type can be RhD positive or RhD negative. RhD is a marker found on your red blood cells. If you have it, you are RhD positive. If you don't, you are RhD negative.

Why Does RhD Matter During Pregnancy?

RhD is important if you are RhD negative and your baby is RhD positive. During pregnancy or at delivery, a small amount of your baby's blood can mix with yours. This usually doesn't cause problems in your first pregnancy. But your body can remember the RhD positive blood and make antibodies. In a future pregnancy, these antibodies can react to the baby's blood and cause a condition called hemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn (HDFN). If this condition develops, complications such as severe jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes) and anemia (low red blood cells) can occur. Although uncommon, some babies may need blood transfusions before or after birth.

How Are Complications Prevented?

To prevent complications when your RhD status does not match your baby's, a health-care provider will recommend a treatment called RhD immune globulin (RhIG). RhIG is a blood product given as an injection. It works by stopping your body from making antibodies that could harm a future pregnancy. It is given at 28 weeks of pregnancy, after delivery and following any events that may cause blood mixing, such as bleeding, certain medical procedures or trauma. However, if your baby is RhD negative like you, you won't need this treatment.

Fetal RHD Screening

This screening test is done early in your pregnancy using a blood sample from you. Tiny pieces of your baby's DNA can be found in your blood to **predict if your baby is RhD positive or RhD negative.**



Knowing your baby's RhD status early in your pregnancy can help you and a health-care provider **decide if you need RhIG treatment.**



About 40% of RhD negative pregnant women/individuals are carrying a baby who is also RhD negative, so they **don't need RhIG treatment.**



Fetal RHD screening is very reliable and safe for you and your baby. **The results are over 99% accurate.**

How to Get This Test

This screening test can be done as early as **11 weeks** into your pregnancy.

1

Discuss this screening with a health-care provider
If it's right for you, they will give you a requisition for the test.

2

Get your blood test
Take your requisition to a lab to have your blood drawn.

3

Wait for your results
Results are usually available within 10 business days and are sent directly to a health-care provider.

4

Discuss your results
A health-care provider will let you know your next steps and if RhIG treatment is recommended for you.



Who Can Get This Test?
Fetal *RHD* screening is publicly funded for all pregnant women/ individuals living in Ontario who:

- » Are RhD negative
- » Have not developed anti-D antibodies
- » Are pregnant with one baby (not twins or more)

Your Results and What to Do Next

Test Result	What It Means	Next Steps
Positive	Your baby is RhD positive.	RhIG treatment is recommended at 28 weeks of pregnancy, after delivery and following events that may cause blood mixing such as bleeding, certain medical procedures or trauma. Talk to a health-care provider about how and when to get this.
Negative	Your baby is RhD negative.	RhIG treatment is not needed. You can continue with routine prenatal care.

** If the test was unable to give a result (**inconclusive or no result**), a health-care provider may ask you to repeat the test or treat your pregnancy as if your baby is RhD positive and recommend RhIG treatment.*

At Delivery

When your baby is born, your baby's RhD status will be confirmed using a blood sample from the umbilical cord. The cord blood results may be shared with the testing lab for ongoing quality assurance.

What If I Don't Have This Test?

If you are RhD negative and do not have this test, a health-care provider will treat your pregnancy as if your baby is RhD positive and recommend RhIG treatment to prevent complications in future pregnancies.

Looking for more information?
Visit Prenatal Screening Ontario's website or speak with a genetic counsellor or a screening specialist on our Information Line:

prenatalscreeningontario.ca PSO@BORNOntario.ca

PSO Information Line: 1-833-351-6490 or 613-737-2281

Learn about your prenatal screening options at myscreeningpathway.ca