

## Your Blood Type and WinRho

It is routine to check your blood type at the beginning of each pregnancy. Most people have a positive blood type or, in other words, are “Rh positive”.

If your blood type is **Rh negative** (O negative, A negative, B negative, or AB negative) then please read this!

### *What is an Rh Factor and why does it matter?*

The positive or negative part of your blood type is called the Rh Factor. If you are Rh negative, your blood cells do not carry this specific marker. Your baby may have a different blood type than you.

If your baby is Rh positive and you are Rh negative, there is a chance of incompatibility, or a miss-match between your blood types. In the rare case that your blood is exposed to your baby’s blood, your immune system can make antibodies to the positive Rh factor from your baby. This can happen when small amounts of your baby’s blood cross your placenta in pregnancy, labour and birth. While this will not impact your current pregnancy, the antibodies could attack the blood of a baby in your next pregnancy. If you develop these antibodies, it is called ‘Rh sensitization’.

### *What is done for someone who is Rh negative in pregnancy?*

We will give you a requisition to check your blood type at the beginning of pregnancy and again at 26-28 weeks.

The recommendation is to get an injection of an Rh-immunoglobulin which is a blood product called WinRho. This shot is recommended at 3 different times:

1. At 28 weeks of pregnancy
2. After the birth of your baby, if they are Rh positive. Your baby’s blood type will be tested using blood from the umbilical cord.
3. If you experience bleeding in your pregnancy or have abdominal trauma

### *Are there any risks to receiving WinRho?*

There is a very rare chance that you will have an allergic reaction to the shot. WinRho is a human blood product that is screened and treated but it does carry a small risk of having unknown viruses, as all blood products do.

***Where do I get the WinRho?***

Your midwives will send a request to the hospital to have the WinRho be prepared. You will need to go to Nanaimo Regional General Hospital on the day of your appointment to pick it up.

On the day of your clinic appointment please:

- Bring your care card
- Plan to go to the hospital **1 hour before your appointment** with the midwives.
- Go to the lab located on the main floor of the hospital. The most direct access to the lab is through the main entrance off of Dufferin Crescent
- When you arrive **do not** take a number, just go directly to the window and tell them you are there to pick up your WinRho.
- Bring your WinRho with you to your appointment.

***Want more info? Check out these links!***

- [http://www.bcwomens.ca/health-info/sexual-reproductive-health/abortion-services/rh-rhesus-blood-typing?fbclid=IwAR3R8mrzPhuYvsnNebwDZVNICO8\\_FJSBsdX-aQrRuv1BD7vB3cveb8q1Wbk](http://www.bcwomens.ca/health-info/sexual-reproductive-health/abortion-services/rh-rhesus-blood-typing?fbclid=IwAR3R8mrzPhuYvsnNebwDZVNICO8_FJSBsdX-aQrRuv1BD7vB3cveb8q1Wbk)
- <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-topics/hw135942>