

FAQs - Fetal RhD screening test



Which patients are eligible for this test?

RhD negative antenatal patients delivering at RFH are eligible. Those delivering at BCF are not eligible because this is a pilot, however if the pilot is successful it will be rolled out to all sites at a later stage.

If a patient is delivering at Barnet but wants to have this new test what do I do?

The patient can be offered the option of transferring delivery to RFH in order to become eligible for the test.

Who has to identify RhD neg patients to offer them the new test?

The caseload midwife is responsible. They should also provide the patient information leaflet as well as explaining the benefits and risks i.e. the patient may not need anti-D prophylaxis but there is always a very small possibility (1:1000) that the prediction of RhD status could be wrong in which case they will receive anti-D post-delivery.

Do I have to order the test and write out request forms to give to the patient?

No, this is done by the Anti-D midwife upon receipt of an emailed 'Anti-D referral form'.

What is an Anti-D referral form?

A form to notify the Anti-D midwife that a patient has been offered the test and has made a decision about it e.g. consented/declined. Only emailed forms will be accepted rf.antidreferral@nhs.net

When can the blood sample be taken?

At the earliest 11+2, and at the latest 26wks. It can only be taken between 26-28wks if also approved by an obstetrician to ensure the possibility of missing the 28wk anti-D dose, whilst waiting for a test result, is considered.

Where will the sample be taken?

If the patient is scheduled for NT or Quad (FMU) scanning it will be taken at that appointment. If FMU scanning has already taken place then the sample will be taken in ANC phlebotomy room but only if an Anti-D referral form has been emailed.

What do I say to the patient if the sample is to be taken in ANC phlebotomy?

"Pick up the Fetal RhD screening request form from Pond Street RFH-ANC ground floor reception desk, then go to ANC phlebotomy room which is open Mon-Fri 9:30am-4pm."

Who checks the Fetal RhD screening test result & informs the patient?

- a) **Checking the result** - the caseload midwife must check the result because if the result states the fetus is predicted to be RhD positive/unknown then the caseload midwife must book the patient into the Anti-D clinic to have anti-D

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prophylaxis. It takes about 1 week for results to come through.

- b) **Informing the patient of the result** - the Anti-D midwife must inform the patient of the result to ensure all patients who should come to the Anti-D clinic have an appointment slot, and for those who don't need prophylactic anti-D that they have a letter (or a phone call and letter) to let them know

Do I have to email an Anti-D referral form for every Fetal RhD screening test?

Yes, there must be a form every time to allow us to track requests so they don't get lost. Email the form to rf.antidreferral@nhs.net

Problem scenarios:

In the community, if there is a blood group at Barnet but not at RFH what do I do?

On the **Anti-D referral form** explain blood group is only on the Barnet system and ask for a Blood group sample in addition to the Fetal RhD screening sample to be taken when the patient comes in.

If I know my patient is RhDneg but booking bloods have not been done, and NT scanning is tomorrow, what do I do?

At triage, write on the **Anti-D referral form** that a 'Blood group sample' needs to be taken in addition to the Fetal RhD screening sample at NT scanning, then email the form straight away.

If the patient has received prophylactic anti-D are they still eligible for the test?

Yes, as long as they are between 11+2 to 26wks. The test uses fetal DNA (not anti-D antibody).

Can I phone the anti-D midwife at RFH for help or queries?

Yes you can, but it may not always be possible to always get through via phone.

For further information

Contact the Leads or Matron in your area, or the RFH Lead Transfusion Practitioner, Anna Li (anna.li@nhs.net x35875).