

## 12. Appendices

### Appendix A: Information for D negative women



Instructions: Bend sheet then "pop-out" card.

#### **INFORMATION FOR RhD NEGATIVE WOMEN**

Several blood tests are undertaken during pregnancy for the benefit of the pregnant woman and her baby. The Scottish Blood Transfusion Service has performed tests to determine your blood group. A card giving details of your blood group is enclosed above, which can be detached for safe keeping.

**Q. Why is it important to know the blood group of a pregnant woman?**

A. First, to provide blood for transfusion without delay if there is unexpected bleeding during pregnancy or at delivery, and second, to identify women who are RhD negative (Rhesus negative).

**Q. Why is it important to identify women who are RhD negative?**

A. During a normal pregnancy blood from the baby can enter the mother's bloodstream, the amounts are small and not felt by the mother. Sometimes when this happens the mother forms an antibody. These antibodies are harmless to the mother and the majority are harmless to the baby, but a few are capable of affecting the baby's red cells, the most important of these anti-D which can only develop in RhD negative mothers who are carrying an RhD positive baby. Fortunately, giving an injection of anti-D immunoglobulin can largely prevent the formulation of anti-D.

**Q. When is anti-D immunoglobulin injection necessary?**

A. Routinely after delivery of an RhD positive baby. It may also be required after a miscarriage, threatened miscarriage or abortion, a medical procedure such as amniocentesis, a heavy fall or other abdominal injury and vaginal bleeding. The anti-D immunoglobulin should be given within 72 hours of any of the above events.

**If you should lose this card, please write to the above address for replacement, informing us of your full name and DOB.** If you want further information, please ask your GP or midwife.

**Never let this card be used by another person as the particulars relate only to you.**

SNBTS/RhD Neg/VER01

### **Antenatal RhD Negative Blood Group Card**

To the person named on this card:

You may need an injection of anti-D if any of the following happen to you in this pregnancy:

- Abdominal injury e.g. seat belt injury or heavy fall
- Miscarriage or threatened miscarriage.
- Vaginal bleeding
- After delivery of an RhD positive baby

**Please keep this card with you and show it to the Medical Staff**