

23 June 2021

Dear Colleague

Non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT) for fetal RHD genotype

The *Guideline for the prophylactic use of RhD immunoglobulin in pregnancy care* was released on 28th May 2021, and is available on the NBA website. [Prophylactic use of Rh D immunoglobulin in pregnancy care | National Blood Authority](#)

The Guideline introduces new clinical guidance on the use of non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT) to determine fetal *RHD* status. This guidance is based on scientific evidence and consensus among clinical experts and is not a policy statement on funding and supply arrangements for the national provision of NIPT.

It is important to note that Lifeblood has not been approved to provide NIPT for RHD for the purpose of targeted antenatal RhD immunoprophylaxis.

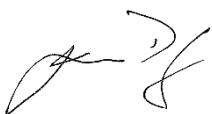
The Lifeblood Red Cell Reference laboratory is currently only approved to provide NIPT for RHD in pregnant women at high risk of RhD haemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn (HDFN) (i.e. alloimmunised women with preformed anti-D).

Details of our testing service, sample requirements and request form can be found at [Non-Invasive Prenatal Analysis \(NIPA\) for RhD now available | Australian Red Cross Lifeblood \(transfusion.com.au\)](#).

There are currently no other laboratories in Australia offering a NATA accredited NIPT for RHD screening test. Consequently, the recommendation in the guidelines to use NIPT for RHD to enable targeted antenatal RhD-immunoglobulin prophylaxis will not be able to be implemented in Australia at this point in time.

The funding and supply arrangements for fetal RHD genotype testing are currently being considered by government in the usual way, following recent completion of the Medical Services Advisory Committee assessment. In the meantime, clinicians should continue to provide universal antenatal RhD-Ig immunoprophylaxis using the *Care pathway for the prophylactic use of RhD immunoglobulin in pregnancy (excluding non-invasive prenatal testing)* [D21-16029-Care-pathway-excluding-NIPT.pdf \(blood.gov.au\)](#).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Daly".

Dr James Daly
Medical Director Pathology Services