



## MEMO:

**DATE:** May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**TO:** All care providers managing pregnant women (OB/GYN, Family Practice, Midwifery)

**FROM:** Dr Jennifer Hunt -- Medical Director, Manitoba Rh Program

**SUBJECT:** **Refusal of Treatment**

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I have had several requests recently from prenatal care providers regarding the protocol to follow when Rh negative patients decline treatment with Rh Ig.

**If the patient is declining treatment on the basis of a partner that is Rh negative:**

- Ensure that informed consent has occurred
- Complete the '**Refusal of Treatment**' form. It should be signed by the health care provider and the patient, then faxed to the Rh Clinic (fax 204-787-2873).
- Please send proof of the partner's Rh negative status.

**If the patient is declining treatment for any other reason(s):**

- Ensure that informed consent has occurred
  - Routine antenatal prophylaxis reduces the risk of sensitization in the *current* pregnancy from about 2% to 0.2% (SOGC Guideline #133, January 2018)
  - Routine postpartum prophylaxis reduces the risk of sensitization in a *subsequent* pregnancy from 12-16% to about 2%(SOGC Guideline #133, January 2018)
  - Risk of sensitization – fetal anemia/hydrops requiring invasive therapy; preterm birth; NICU admission; perinatal loss; neonatal anemia and jaundice requiring therapy.
- Complete the '**Refusal of Treatment**' form and indicate on the form that the reason is not related to the partner's Rh negative status.
- The form should be signed by the health care provider and the patient, then faxed to the Rh Clinic (fax 204-787-2873).

I have attached the '**Refusal of Treatment**' form for your clinical areas. This form is also included in the package sent from the Rh Clinic prior to the 28-week appointment.

Thank you in advance for your attention in this manner. Any concerns or questions may be directed to the Rh Clinic or directly to Dr. Hunt (jhunt@sbgh.mb.ca).

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