



MEMO:

DATE: August 26th, 2022

TO: All prenatal care providers (Obstetrics, Midwifery, Primary Care)

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

SUBJECT: **Update to Guidelines for Prenatal Testing and Administration of RhIG (WinRho[®] SDF) – Effective September 1st 2022**

Please review the updated Guidelines for Prenatal Testing and Administration of RhIG (WinRho[®] SDF). This update will officially take effect as of September 1st 2022

Highlights of changes:

- The 2022 guidelines from the World Health Organization and National Abortion Federation on abortion care have recommended against Rh testing and administration of RhIG (WinRho[®] SDF) for patients undergoing any type of abortion (spontaneous, medical or surgical) before 12 weeks' gestation. These guidelines are available free-of-charge online for reference.
- This statement assumes that dating is known with some degree of certainty.
- Care providers are encouraged to have an informed consent discussion with patients. The risk of alloimmunization in Rh negative patients is low in this scenario. RhIG (WinRho[®] SDF) can always be given as a result of this mutual decision-making process but testing and administration should not be a barrier to abortion care.
- Administration of RhIG (WinRho[®] SDF) for pregnancy loss prior to 20 weeks' gestation is typically not carried out by the Rh Clinic.

What has not changed:

- There are no changes to the recommendations for Rh testing and the administration of RhIG (WinRho[®] SDF) for Rh negative women with antepartum bleeding or other events that increase the risk of alloimmunization in ongoing, viable pregnancies. The Rh Clinic can be consulted for treatment in this situation as per existing protocols and guidelines.
- Rh negative patients should still have RhIG (WinRho[®] SDF) administered at 28-30 weeks' gestation. The Rh Clinic will continue to coordinate this treatment as per existing protocols and guidelines.

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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