

For Women with a Rhesus Negative Blood Group

An injection of Anti 'D' immunoglobulin is administered to all women with a Rhesus negative blood group after having a baby, having a missed abortion (miscarriage), or an abortion.

It is given to prevent you manufacturing antibodies that may, in future pregnancy, affect the health of the baby.

- This is a placenta with no communication between the fetal and maternal blood.
- The fetal cells enter your blood circulation through a break in the 'placenta barrier'. This happens when there is separation during and after delivery, miscarriage or abortion.
- Your immune system then begins to produce antibodies following the introduction of Rhesus positive blood.
- In a subsequent pregnancy these antibodies cross the placental barrier, resulting in haemolytic disease of the new-born. In the past this has been commonly known as blue baby.
- An Anti 'D' immunoglobulin injection is administered within 72 hours of the birth, miscarriage or abortion. This will result in the destruction of fetal rhesus red cells that may have entered your blood, and so prevent your immune system creating its antibodies.