

## **Rh IMMUNE GLOBULIN INFORMED CONSENT**

I understand that if I build up antibodies to Rh positive blood (Rh sensitization), these antibodies can cross the placenta and attack my baby's red blood cells, destroying them. This destruction leads to anemia, jaundice, possibly kernicterus, mental retardation, edema, congestive heart failure, or even death (10-30%). This condition could lead to the decision to have or refuse intrauterine transfusions, premature termination of the pregnancy, or the decision of accepting or refusing exchange transfusions after the baby is born.

Rh sensitization is an irreversible condition. RhoGam is used to prevent Rh sensitization. It is a blood product, derived from human plasma, so complete safety from the AIDS virus or Hepatitis B virus cannot be assured although no known cases have been reported. Useful might be a quote from the manufacturer, Ortho, in the booklet for physicians on RhoGam, "Animal reproduction studies have not been conducted with RhoGam. It is also not known whether Rd (D) Immune Globulin (Human) [RhoGam] can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman or can affect reproduction capacity." (Brackets supplied.)

Having both the 28 week shot and the after-birth shot reduces the risk of becoming sensitized to 0.5%.

I hereby state that I have been informed about the benefits and/or risks of receiving Rh Immune Globulin (RhoGam).

1. At 28 weeks for the prevention of sensitization during pregnancy. (1% risk)
2. Within 3 days of birth of an Rh+ baby or miscarriage to protect the next pregnancy from sensitization and its associated risks. (12-13% risk)

After having had Rh sensitization explained to me by my midwife and after having read and understood the above information and accept full responsibility for my decision.

I hereby      ACCEPT      REFUSE      (circle one) the administration of RhoGam at 28 weeks.

I hereby      ACCEPT      REFUSE      (circle one) the administration of RhoGam within 72 hours of the birth of an Rh+ baby.

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Signature of Client

Date