



## Guideline Recommendations for the use of Rh(D) Immunoglobulin (anti-D) in pregnant patients

Haemolytic Disease of the Newborn (HDN) is caused by incompatibility between a woman and her baby, leading to isoimmunisation of Rh(D) negative women against Rh(D) positive blood.

Rh(D) immunoglobulin is used to prevent isoimmunisation and the possibility of HDN occurring in a subsequent pregnancy by administration to:

- Rh(D) negative women with no antibodies soon after delivery of Rh(D) positive baby.
- During pregnancy for potentially sensitising events such as miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, amniocentesis or abdominal trauma.
- Routinely during first pregnancy, usually at 28 and 34 weeks gestation to Rh(D) negative with no preformed antibodies.

### General indication

For successful immunoprophylaxis, Rh(D) immunoglobulin should be administered within 72 - 96 hours of the sensitising event. If not, a dose within 9-10 days may provide protection. Blood should be taken from the mother before administration of the Rh(D) immunoglobulin to assess the magnitude of foeto-maternal haemorrhage (FMH).

### Postpartum administration

- A dose of 120 µg (600 IU) WinRho should be given to every Rh(D) negative woman following delivery of an Rh(D) positive baby.
- Rh(D) immunoglobulin should not be given to

women with preformed anti-D antibodies, except where the anti-D is due to a previous antenatal injection of Rh(D) immunoglobulin. If it is unclear, anti-D should be given.

- The magnitude of FMH should be assessed to ensure dose is sufficient to prevent maternal immunisation.

The standard dose of 120 µg (600 IU) WinRho should protect against an FMH of up to 6ml of foetal Rh(D) positive red cells (12ml of whole blood).

*continued inside...*

## Warfarin reminder

**PLEASE REMEMBER to register your new Warfarin Care Patients on 1300 795 355 BEFORE they present for testing**

- > **NEW PATIENTS ONLY** need to be registered
- > **If you need a new info pack/sticker** please contact QML Liaison on (07) 3840 4539
- > **Please be patient on the 1300 line** – we are adding extra staff to deal with enquiries and registration

*...from front page*

It is recommended that when the baby's blood is sent for grouping, a maternal sample is also sent for assessment of the FMH and further doses of anti-D administered are sufficient to prevent maternal immunisation.

### Indications for Antenatal Administration

#### *First trimester*

A dose of 50 µg (250IU) Rh(D) immunoglobulin (**Minidose**) should be given to every Rh(D) negative woman with no preformed anti-D to ensure adequate protection against immunisation for cases of miscarriage, termination of pregnancy, ectopic pregnancy and chorionic villus sampling **up to and including 12 weeks gestation.**

- A dose of 50 µg (250IU) Rh(D) immunoglobulin is sufficient to prevent immunisation by an FMH of 2.5 ml foetal cells (5 ml whole blood).
- It is strongly recommended that women undergoing termination of pregnancy be tested for Rh(D) type to prevent unnecessary use of Rh(D) immunoglobulin.

#### *Second and Third trimester*

A dose of 125 µg (625 IU) Rh(D) immunoglobulin (**Standard dose**) should be given to every Rh(D) negative woman with no preformed anti-D to ensure adequate protection against immunisation. This should be administered for cases of chorionic villus sampling, amniocentesis and cordocentesis, abdominal trauma sufficient to cause FMH, each occasion of revealed or concealed antepartum haemorrhage, external cephalic version **indications after 12 weeks gestation.**

- It is recommended that the magnitude of FMH is determined and further doses administered as required.

### Antenatal prophylaxis

- Universal prophylaxis with Rh(D) immunoglobulin to Rh(D) negative women with no preformed anti-D antibodies at 28 and 34 weeks gestation is regarded as best practice.
- **Due to a limited supply of Rh(D) immunoglobulin, at the moment, routine prophylaxis is recommended for primigravidae only.**

### Women with anti-D

Anti-D titres do not always correlate well with the severity of HDN. To assist in the management of Rh allo-immunised patients the following information may be useful:

- Previous history of transfusion, pregnancy, anti-D prophylaxis
- Previously affected pregnancy e.g. jaundice, intra-uterine transfusions, neonatal exchange
- Paternal blood group and phenotype

If Rh(D) immunoglobulin is administered during pregnancy, it is currently not possible to serologically distinguish if it passive anti-D or low level immune anti-D.

Antibody level should be tested at the first visit and at least monthly for the remainder of the pregnancy. Ideally, after 34 weeks, antibody level should be titred fortnightly.

A significant rise in titre is considered to be an increase of at least two dilutions. Anti-D quantitation is only performed if the titre is >16 and sufficient sample is available.

***For further information please contact the QML Blood Bank on (07) 3840 4424.***

(Reference NHMRC "Summary of guideline recommendations for the use of Rh D immunoglobulin (anti-D) in obstetrics" 22 March 1999)

## PIP Pap Smear Service

In November 2001, the Commonwealth Government introduced a Cervical Screening Incentive involving a Practice Incentive Program (PIP). At this time, QML distributed a printed report to referring doctors to assist with attaining this incentive, providing a list of all patients with no Pap smear recorded with QML within the last four years.

**In response to recent requests for assistance with this PIP, QML will be distributing an updated version of these patient lists to referring doctors from May 2004.**

The report lists all patients with QML records which apparently meet PIP criteria, and include

the date of their last smear. This list is available to assist you in your practice and to highlight the individuals who have not had Pap smears in the last four years.

Please note, that it is possible that this list may be incomplete for a variety of reasons including patient name changes or the patient has had a smear with another service.

*For further information on this PIP service, please contact your local QML Medical Liaison Officer or QML Brisbane Liaison on (07) 3840 4539.*

# New Pathologists for 2004

For over 80 years QML's Pathologists have provided expert advice to Medical Practitioners throughout Queensland & northern New South Wales.

As part of our ongoing expansion, QML would like to announce the appointment of four new pathologists throughout Queensland in April/May 2004.

Please see future editions of the QML Newsletter for biographies on the newly appointed Pathologist team.

**Dr David Heyworth-Smith**  
QML Brisbane Immunology Department

**Dr Robert Russell**  
QML Cairns

**Dr Ann Warrell**  
QML Southport

**Dr Stephen Withers**  
QML Brisbane Genetics Department

## Upcoming Events...

### **QML Ballina CPD**

Date: 13th May  
Venue: Ballina Manor, 25 Norton St  
Time: 6:30pm for 7:00pm  
Topic: General Cardiology – Atrial Fibrillation, Palpitations of the Aging Population, Warfarin Therapy

Speakers: Dr Guy Wright-Smith, Dr Tony Dare  
Contact: For further information (07) 3840 4506

### **St Andrew's CPD Evening**

Date: 18th May  
Venue: Royal on the Park, Brisbane  
Time: 6:30pm for 7:00pm  
Topics: Lower Cardiac Risk Factors, Abnormal Uterine Bleeding  
Contact: St Andrews Hospital (07) 3834 4210

### **QML Gold Coast CPD**

Date: 19th May  
Venue: Lakelands Golf Club, Gooding Drive, Merrimac  
Time: 6:30pm for 7:00pm  
Topic: General Cardiology – Atrial Fibrillation, Palpitations of the Aging Population, Warfarin Therapy

Speakers: Dr Guy Wright-Smith, Dr Glenn Francis  
Contact: For further information (07) 3840 4506.

### **Annual Gynaecological Endoscopy Society (AGES) Conference**

Date: 26th – 29th May  
Venue: The Ballroom, Hilton Brisbane  
Topics: Risk Management in Gynaecological Surgery, Advanced Gynaecological Surgery, Pelvic Floor Repair Procedures, Adhesion Prevention, Laparoscopic Surgery  
Contact: AGES on (02) 9967 2928

### **QML Sunshine Coast CPD**

Date: 1st June  
Venue: Headland Golf Club, Buderim  
Time: TBA  
Topic: General Cardiology – Atrial Fibrillation, Palpitations of the Aging Population, Warfarin Therapy

Speakers: TBA

### **St Andrew's CPD Weekend**

Date: 5th - 6th June  
Venue: Marriott Resort, Gold Coast  
Topics: Neuroscience & Rehabilitation  
Contact: St Andrews Hospital on (07) 3834 4210

### **Rural Doctor's Association of Queensland Conference**

Date: 10th - 12th June  
Venue: Radisson Resort, Gold Coast  
Topic: Rural Health  
Contact: RDAQ on (07) 3352 8333.

### **RANZCOG Annual Qld/NSW Scientific Meeting 2004**

Date: 12-13 June  
Venue: Noosa Lakes Convention & Exhibition Centre, Noosaville  
Topics: Risk management, IVF, Biochemical Screening for Down Syndrome, New Technology in Gynaecology.  
Contact: RANZCOG on (07) 3839 9001.

### **8th Annual Update in Gastroenterology and Hepatology**

Gastroenterological Society of Queensland  
Date: 12th - 14th June  
Venue: Hyatt Coolum  
Topics: Gastrointestinal and Liver Tumours, Endoscopic Video Vignettes, Young Investigator Awards  
Contact: For further information (07) 5548 6199.

### **St Andrew's CPD Evening**

Date: 15th June  
Venue: Royal on the Park, Brisbane  
Time: 6:30pm for 7:00pm  
Topics: Assessing Headache, Stroke, Renal Calculi  
Contact: St Andrews Hospital on (07) 3834 4210

### **AMAQ Charity Golf Day**

Date: 17 June  
Venue: Pacific Golf Club, Carindale  
Contact: Neil Mackintosh, AMAQ on (07) 3872 2222

# COLLECTION CENTRE NEWS

For the convenience of our doctors and patients, we have listed the latest additions and changes to the QML network of clinics:

## LABORATORY RELOCATION TUGUN

**John Flynn Laboratory** (07) 5598 0822

Suite 1, Level 1, John Flynn Hospital, Tugun

## NEW COLLECTION CENTRES

**Beaudesert** (07) 5541 4729

Lavender House, 37 Williams St

Mon-Fri 7.30am - 5.00pm

(closed for lunch 12.30 - 1.00)

Sat 8.00am - 12noon

**Hinkler Place - Bundaberg** (07) 4151 3743

Shop 6A (Opposite Coles), Maryborough Street

Mon-Fri 8.00am - 4.00pm

## COLLECTION CENTRE CHANGES

### Burpengary

(New phone number) (07) 3888 8154

Shop 2, 184 Station Rd

Mon - Fri 7.30am - 6.00pm

Sat 8.00am - 12.00noon

### Chermside

(Address change) (07) 3359 1588

Level 1, 10 Banfield St

Mon - Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm

(closed for lunch 12.30 - 1.00)

### Inala

(Address change) (07) 3372 7277

Shop 6, Ezy Shopping Plaza,  
Inala Civic Centre, 156 Inala Ave

Mon - Fri 7.00am - 5.00pm

Sat 8.00am - 12.00noon

### Indooroopilly

(New opening hours) (07) 3378 5215

Day & Night Medical Centre, 66 Station Rd

Mon - Fri 7.00am - 5.00pm

Sat 8.00am - 12.00noon

### Lismore

(New opening hours) (02) 6621 4488

69 Uralba St

Mon - Fri 8.00am - 1.00pm

### Nanango

(New opening hours) (07) 4171 0954

Shop 1, 43 Fitzroy St

Mon - Fri 8.00am - 4.30pm

Please contact your local branch or Brisbane Liaison for further information on (07) 3840 4539.



## Doctors' Notice Board

### Dr Lucinda Pallis, Gynaecologist,

is pleased to advise that she has commenced private practice in Gynaecology at Suite 3, Allamanda Medical Centre, 25 Spendelove Street, Southport. For appointments please telephone (07) 5531 3733 or facsimile (07) 5532 8734.

### Dr Peter Ganter, Obstetrician/

Gynaecologist, wishes to advise that he has relocated to Suite 9, 21 Waterloo Street, Cleveland. Appointments are available for new patients. Appropriate periodic cover is provided by a staff Obstetrician. For all appointments please telephone (07) 3821 6626.

### Palm Beach

(New opening hours) (07) 5534 4211

Suite 1, 28 Palm Beach Ave

Mon - Fri 7.00am - 5.30pm

Sat 8.00am - 12.00noon

### South Brisbane

(Address change) (07) 3846 1653

Suite 1, Level 2, Mater Private Clinic,  
550 Stanley St

Mon - Fri 8.00am - 4.00pm

### Taringa

(New opening hours) (07) 3371 3266

1st Floor, Morrow St

Mon - Fri 8.00am - 8.00pm

(closed for lunch 12-12.30pm)

Sat 8.00am - 4.00pm

Sun & Pub. Hols 8.00am - 12.00noon

### Townsville

(New opening hours) (07) 4779 0158

51 Fulham Rd, Pimlico

Mon - Fri 7.30am - 6.00pm

Sat 8.00am - 12.00noon

### Tugun

(New opening hours) (07) 5598 9160

Ground Floor, John Flynn Medical Centre

Inland Dr

Mon - Fri 7.30am - 5.30pm

### University of Queensland

(New opening hours) (07) 3346 8870

Gordon Greenwood Building, (UQ Health Service)

Mon - Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm

(closed for lunch 12.15pm - 12.45pm)



Mayne Health Pathology Pty Ltd ABN 84 007 190 043 t/a Queensland Medical Laboratory

This newsletter has been prepared and published by QML Pathology for the information of referring doctors. Although every effort has been made to ensure that the newsletter is free from error or omission, readers are advised that the newsletter is not a substitute for detailed professional advice.

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