

## Does the Anti-D injection always work?

The Anti-D injection works in more than 90% of cases. That means more than 90 out of 100 women who receive the injection will be protected.

## What happens if I choose not to have the injection?

If you decide not to have the injection you have a significant risk of developing the Anti-D antibodies.

Once your body has started making Anti-D antibodies, there is no way to stop it happening or to remove them. You will carry them for the rest of your life.

This means your baby, and future babies, will be more at risk of developing HFDN.

## What are my options?

An Anti-D injection is the best way of reducing the risk of harm to any current or future pregnancies and births.

However, the decision to have the injection is your choice.

You will be asked to sign a consent form that shows that you:

- understand the benefits and risk of the product
- have had the opportunity to ask questions about the treatment
- agree to the treatment.

If you have further questions talk to your midwife or doctor.

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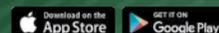
# Anti-D injections for women with a negative blood type

Treatment for the wellbeing of current or future pregnancies



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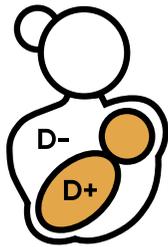
## Why am I getting this leaflet?

You've been given this leaflet because your doctor or midwife thinks you will benefit from an **Anti-D injection**.

This injection is offered to some people with a **negative blood group**, also called a **D negative** or **Rh(D) negative** blood group.

It is for the health and wellbeing of a current or future pregnancy.

## What is the risk with a D negative blood type?



Problems can occur if you're a D negative woman who is, or has been, carrying a D positive baby.

When this happens, there's a risk that the blood cells can get into your blood stream.

This risk can occur in D negative women who:

- are pregnant and have had a recent injury to the abdomen such as a fall or car accident
- are pregnant and have had recent vaginal bleeding
- have had a termination or miscarriage
- who have had certain pregnancy tests (amniocentesis or chorion villus sampling)
- have just given birth to a D positive baby.

If this happens, your immune system makes antibodies called Anti-D. This is called **sensitisation**.

It can make your baby, or future babies, very sick with a condition called **HDFN (haemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn)**.

HDFN destroys healthy red blood cells (anaemia) and causes yellowing of the skin (jaundice). In rare cases it can also cause brain damage and even death.

While it can be hard to think about pregnancy if you've recently lost a baby, taking action now can help prevent difficulties in future.

## How can I reduce the risk of developing Anti-D antibodies?

You can have a treatment called an Anti-D injection.

The Anti-D injection reduces your chance of developing the antibodies that cause HDFN by 90%.

## How is the anti-D injection given?

You'll need the Anti-D injection within **3 days (72 hours)** to reduce the risk of HDFN in future pregnancies.



There are two kinds of Anti-D injection. Your doctor or midwife will recommend the one that is best for you.

**RhD immunoglobulin** is more common. It is an injection made from plasma, the yellow part of blood. It is given in a muscle.

**Rhophylac** is also made from plasma, but it is injected into a vein in your arm. It is used when a large quantity of the baby's blood is detected in the mother's blood stream and a larger dose of Anti-D is needed.

Anti-D immunoglobulin is made from plasma donated by blood donors in North America.

## How safe are anti-D injections?

The plasma used in the Anti-D injection is tested for any viruses that could put you at risk.

Anti-D products in New Zealand, Australia and North America have been used for over 50 years and have a very good safety record.

About 7,000 doses of Anti-D injection have been given to women in New Zealand every year since 1968.

## Are there any side effects?

A common side effect for the mother is soreness at the injection site. This usually lasts a few hours. Sometimes it can last a day or two.

Uncommon side effects include:

- mild fever
- headache
- rash.

Allergic reactions are rare, but if you have any concerns please speak to your midwife or doctor.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of giving you Anti-D immunoglobulin against the benefits they expect it will have for you.