

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.



### What are my options?

An Anti-D injection is the best way to reduce the risk of your baby getting sick with HDFN. That's why we recommend you get the injection if you're offered it.

However, the testing and injections are your choice.

If you're unsure or need more information, talk to your doctor or midwife about your treatment options.



Scan here to go to  
[nzblood.co.nz/patients](https://nzblood.co.nz/patients)



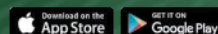
# Protection for you and your baby

Routine Anti-D  
treatment to prevent  
your baby getting sick



Leaflet prepared and provided by New Zealand Blood Service,  
Private Bag 92071, Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142. 71 Great South  
Road, Epsom, Auckland. Telephone: 09 523 5733. Fax: 09 523 5754.

Download our app now



## Why am I getting this leaflet?

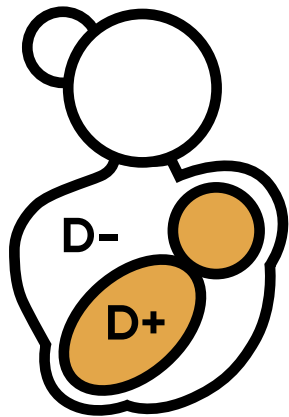
You've been given this leaflet because you and your baby will benefit from treatment called an **Anti-D injection**.

Testing has shown that you have a **negative blood type** and that you may be carrying a baby with a **positive blood type**. You may also hear these blood types called **D negative** or **Rh(D) negative**, and **D positive** or **Rh(D) positive**.

Sometimes the combination of a D negative mother and a D positive baby can cause problems at birth. This puts your baby at risk of getting very sick.

A routine Anti-D injection can prevent this risk.

## What is the risk of D negative mother and a D positive baby?



During pregnancy or birth, there's a risk that some of your baby's red blood cells get into your blood stream.

When this happens, your immune system makes antibodies called Anti-D. These antibodies then attack the blood cells of your baby. They can also attack the blood of any future babies. This is called **sensitisation**.

This can make your baby very sick with a condition called **HDFN (haemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn)**.

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

## How can I stop my baby getting sick?



You can get an injection to stop your baby getting sick with HDFN. This treatment is called an Anti-D injection. You may also hear it called Anti-D prophylaxis. Prophylaxis means the treatment is given to stop your baby getting sick (rather than to treat your baby once they become sick).

An Anti-D injection removes any of your baby's blood cells from your blood stream. This stops you making the Anti-D antibodies that can harm your baby.

It will also stop the baby in your next pregnancy getting sick with HDFN.

## When is the Anti-D injection given?

The Anti-D treatment is given in 2 injections. You'll get the first at 28 weeks of pregnancy and the second at 34 weeks of pregnancy.

Sometimes the Anti-D injection is given in one large dose at around 30 weeks.

## How is the Anti-D injection made?

The injection is a product called Anti-D Immunoglobulin.

Anti-D immunoglobulin is made from plasma, the yellow part of blood.

Before the Anti-D injection is made, we test the blood for any viruses that could put you or your baby at risk.

## Are there any risks to me or my baby when the injection is given?

Anti-D injections have been used in New Zealand and other overseas countries for many years.

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.

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.