



Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Memorandum

To: Nova Scotia Health and IWK Health Care Providers and Service Directors.
From: Transfusion Medicine, Department of Pathology and Lab Medicine
Date: October 21, 2022
Message: Implementation of Nova Scotia guideline for RhD testing version 3

Effective November 24, 2022, Version 3 of the Nova Scotia Guideline for RhD testing will be implemented.

The Nova Scotia Guideline for RhD Testing has been updated to include recommendations from AABB, College of American Pathologists (CAP) and the National Advisory Committee on Blood Products (NAC) and to reflect current standards and best practices in transfusion medicine.

Summary of key changes include:

- RhD genotyping for pregnant individuals or individuals of child-bearing potential classified as Weak D type 4.0 and type 4.1 are no longer considered Rh positive for the purposes of transfusion.
 - RhIg administration is now recommended for prenatal patients that are determined to be either Weak D type 4.0 or type 4.1.
- The maximum age used to define child-bearing potential has been lowered from 50 to 45 years.
- Standardized comments for RhD reporting of cord blood, paternal and neonatal samples (for the purposes of maternal RhIg eligibility) classified as Weak D positive and RhD indeterminate have been added to the guideline:
 - *Patient sample demonstrates weak expression of the D antigen. For the purpose of maternal RhIg eligibility, this patient should be considered RhD positive and maternal RhIg administration is recommended.*
 - *RhD status is indeterminate due to positive Direct Antiglobulin Test, no additional testing required. For the purposes of maternal RhIg eligibility, this patient should be considered RhD positive and maternal RhIg administration is recommended.*
- A recommendation was added that RhD genotyping results be shared with provincial reference laboratories. In addition, when prenatal RhD genotyping is requested from outside the IWK the referral hospital should confirm with the IWK Transfusion Services that previous testing has not already been performed.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer LeFrense (Manager, Nova Scotia Provincial Blood Coordinating Team) at (902) 487-0504 or jennifer.lefrense@nshealth.ca.