

Where is the Maternal Infant Program?

The Maternal Infant Program is located in room 3101 on the 3rd floor of the Ontario Power Generation Building at 700 University Ave. Enter the main door on University Ave. and take the elevator up to the third floor. When you reach the third floor turn right and follow the sign for Maternal Infant Program.

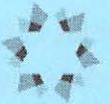
Where is the Ontario Power Generation Building?

The Ontario Power Generation building is on the south-west corner of College Street and University Ave. If you are taking the subway, use the Yonge-University Line and get off at the Queen's Park stop. You can also take the College Street street car. If you are driving, parking is available on Murray Street (behind the Ontario Power Generation building).

Is there wheelchair access?

There is a wheelchair ramp on the University Ave. entrance to the building. If you need help once inside the building, ask at the security desk in the main lobby.

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL
Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Health Complex



Maternal Infant Program

The Rh Factor and Rhlg

Information for Rh Negative
Mothers



Your Appointment Is Booked For:

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

Contact Number: _____

Please bring your Ontario Health Card
& Mount Sinai Hospital Card.

What is the Rh factor?

People with different blood types have proteins specific to that blood type on the surfaces of their red blood cells. There are four blood types - A, B, AB, and O. Each of the four blood types is additionally classified according to the presence of another protein on the surface of red blood cells that indicates the Rh factor. Human blood is either Rh positive or negative.

Most people, about 85%, who have the Rh factor are Rh positive. Those who do not have the Rf factor are Rh negative. Each mother is tested early in pregnancy to find out if she is Rh negative.

What does “Rh negative” mean for me and my baby?

If you are Rh negative, you may develop antibodies to an Rh-positive baby. If red blood cells from the baby contact the mother's blood, the mother's body recognizes it as a foreign substance and the mother may then make Rh antibodies. These can cross the placenta and destroy the baby's red blood cells. This is called hemolytic disease of the newborn, and can be prevented if women who are Rh negative are given Rhlg during pregnancy.

What is Rhlg?

RHIG is a blood product made from a part of blood plasma (the liquid part of blood). It

prevents the Rh antibodies from developing. The plasma used to make Rhlg is tested for hepatitis B, C and HIV viruses. When Rhlg is being made processes are used to kill any viruses. There have been no reports of women getting these viruses from Rhlg. In Canada Rhlg is supplied to hospitals by Canadian Blood Services.

When is Rhlg used?

The risk of developing Rh antibodies is highest during the last 3 months of pregnancy and during birth. Rhlg is given to Rh negative mothers at 28 weeks of pregnancy. It is given again within 72 hours after birth if the baby is Rh positive. This will stop the mother's body from developing antibodies that could harm future babies.

Rhlg is also given at other times when the baby's blood may have contacted the mother's. Some examples are after a miscarriage, therapeutic abortion, tubal pregnancy, or amniocentesis test. If you have vaginal bleeding during your pregnancy you may also receive Rhlg. It is important to remember that Rhlg is given for each pregnancy because its protective effects only last for a short time.

When is Rhlg not used?

Rhlg is used only as a preventative measure. If your blood already has Rh antibodies, you

will not be given Rhlg. You will have blood tests to monitor the strength of the antibodies and may need other treatment. Each woman's case is very different.

How is Rhlg given?

Rhlg is given in a needle into a muscle in your hip or arm. It can also be given through IV into a small vein in your hand.

Does Rhlg always work?

Rhlg has been very successful in preventing hemolytic disease of the newborn. Unfortunately, a small number of women still develop antibodies even if they are given Rhlg

Will Rhlg hurt my baby?

No. Rhlg is given in such small amounts that even if it crosses into the baby's blood it does not cause harm.

Are there side effects?

There have been no reports of side effects in the baby. You may have some mild discomfort at the injection site. Very rarely, a mother may have an allergic reaction. If you have any unusual symptoms after having Rhlg please call your doctor.