

## Special Blood Requirement - Weak or Partial D (Rh) Type

### What is a weak or partial D (Rh) type?

The Rh(D) protein is present on your body's red blood cells (RBCs) if you are Rh type positive (for example group O Rh positive) or absent if you are Rh type negative (for example group O Rh negative). Most people type clearly as Rh positive or Rh negative.

In a small percentage of the population (0.2-1.0%), there is a change in the way the Rh(D) protein is expressed on the RBCs. In some cases less protein is present. This is called a 'Weak D type'. In other cases, the protein is changed so that some parts of it are actually missing. This is called a 'Partial D type'.

The laboratory that performed testing of your blood type found a weaker than usual result. In order to tell if you were a weak D or partial D type, your blood sample was examined by a special test called 'genotyping'.

### How does it affect me?

Neither of these changes results in harm to you, however, it may determine if you need to receive a particular blood product and what Rh type product you receive.

On the card that you received, it will indicate if you should receive Rh positive or Rh negative blood. If the recommendation is to treat you as Rh negative, you should receive Rh negative blood and, if pregnant, receive Rh immune globulin or RhIG (brand name WinRho®).

### What do I need to do?

If you require a blood transfusion, or are pregnant, it is important that your health care providers are aware of your Rh (D) type to ensure you receive the appropriate blood product.

- Please carry the attached card with you and show it to your physician or nurse if a blood transfusion is being considered and/or if you are pregnant.
- Consider registering with a medical alert program (such as MedicAlert®) that will identify your particular Rh type for transfusions to first responders and physicians in case of emergencies.