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Rhesus Isoimmunisation Policy

Hutt Maternity Policies provide guidance for the midwives and medical staff working in Hutt Maternity Services. Please discuss policies relevant to your care with your Lead Maternity Carer.

Purpose

To outline management of pregnant women with suspected Rhesus isoimmunisation in current pregnancy.

Scope

All obstetric/midwifery staff

Definition

Rhesus negative women carrying Rhesus positive foetuses, are at risk of developing anti Rhesus antibodies. Rhesus positive foetuses/newborns of these mothers are at risk of developing haemolytic disease of the fetus/newborn which may be lethal or associated with significant morbidity.

Acronyms

MCA PSV: Middle cerebral artery peak systolic velocity

MFM: Maternal fetal medicine unit at Wellington Hospital

Informed Consent

The right of a consumer to make an informed choice and give informed consent, including the right to refuse medical treatment, is enshrined in law and in the Code of Health and Disability Consumers' Rights in New Zealand. This means that a woman can choose to decline treatment, referral to another practitioner, or transfer of clinical responsibility. If this occurs follow the process map on page 18 of the Referral Guidelines (Ministry of Health, 2012).

RHESUS ISOIMMUNISATION

