



## Red Cell Antibodies in Pregnancy

### *What are red cell antibodies?*

Antibodies are your body's natural defense against anything which is different from yourself, such as a virus, vaccine or a different blood type. Antibodies are part of your immune system and protect your body against harmful invasions such as infections. Your body may form antibodies if exposed to blood cells other than your own. This can happen because of a blood transfusion or during pregnancy.

### *Why are red cell antibodies important when I'm pregnant?*

If you would need a blood transfusion, you must be given the correct blood type. It must also match for any antibodies you have.

1. If your doctor sends you to Wesley for blood tests earlier in your pregnancy, you will need to go to the Outpatient Lab at Admissions. Enter the main hospital from the visitor parking garage. You will find Admissions right past the information desk.
2. If you are coming to have blood drawn the **day before** your scheduled C-Section: Go the Wesley BirthCare Center to have your blood drawn.
3. Your doctor can send a prescription with you for the lab test that needs to be drawn, call or fax a copy to the BirthCare Center.
4. For your SAFTEY you will be given an ID band to wear on your wrist. **It is very important you leave this band ON for your surgery the next day so we can match it with your blood sample.**
5. If you do not leave your band on, your blood will have to be drawn again the next day – for your safety. This could cause a delay in your surgery.

