

KEY HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS RELEVANT TO THIRD-PARTY AUTHORIZATION

- States may not restrict women's access to health services on the ground that they do not have the authorization of husbands, partners, parents or health authorities, because they are unmarried, or because they are women.
- Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services must be provided in a way that ensures privacy and confidentiality.
- States may not regulate abortion in a manner that forces women to resort to unsafe abortion.
- States must take steps, including revising laws, to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality, and to effectively protect women and girls from the physical and mental risks associated with resorting to unsafe abortion.
- Everyone has a right to privacy and confidentiality in accessing SRH services.
- Availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality must be central to the regulation of SRH services.

For further information and sources, please refer to Box 1.2 and Web annex A: Key international human rights standards on abortion.

3.3.3 Rh isoimmunization

Rh isoimmunization is a type of haemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn (HDFN). Specifically, it is the development of antibodies against the Rh antigens on the surface of red blood cells of another individual (i.e. one's own fetus) (123).

What

CLINICAL SERVICES Recommendation 8 (NEW): Rh isoimmunization for abortion at gestational ages < 12 weeks

For both medical and surgical abortion at < 12 weeks: **Recommend against** anti-D immunoglobulin administration.

Remark:

- Standard of care applies for anti-D administration at gestational ages $\geq$ 12 weeks.

Who

Not applicable.

Rationale

A systematic review assessed the effect of routine anti-D administration among unsensitized Rh-negative individuals undergoing an abortion. There are few studies examining Rh isoimmunization in unsensitized Rh-negative individuals seeking abortion before 12 weeks of gestation. Only two studies, conducted in Israel and the USA, met the inclusion criteria for the review, both published in 1972 (124, 125). A summary of the evidence is presented in Supplementary material 2, EtD framework on Rh isoimmunization.